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JANUARY 1988

ISSUE No 289.



# ***Lalrobo Valley Naturalist***

Protect and enjoy

Registered by Australian Post. Publication No. VBH 1569.

65c.



COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.

Meeting:

Friday January 15th  
Members night. Slides of excursions  
etc...

Excursion:

Campout at Licola 22-25th January  
Further information ring  
J.Wall 74 8117

BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP.

Meeting

Monday February 1st.  
Entrance to Moe Pondage 10.00am.  
Old Melbourne Road (near roundabout)

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FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH.

Action Days

3rd Sunday of the month  
contact J.Brooks (056) 231563

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Friends of MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

Meeting

2nd sunday of the month  
Contact Gail 221478  
Yvonne 222597

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A.C.F. LOCAL GROUP.

Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month  
Legal Aid Office  
Morwell.



### HAWAII'S BIRDS

During our recent trip to U.S.A. and Canada, we stopped over at Oahu Island in the Hawaii Islands and learned some interesting facts about the birds of the region.

On closer observation and by reading a delightful little book "Hawaii's Birds" we learnt these interesting and alarming facts.

The islands appear to have had about 110 kinds of endemic birds before the Polynesian people arrived; by the time white men arrived the number had been reduced to about 70; the number has now been reduced to 47 and nearly 60% of these are classed as endangered.

The story of the archipelago is all too familiar: agricultural activities demanding more land, wet lands being drained or filled, pollution destroying habitats or the food chain, introduced birds farm beasts and rodents upsetting the ecology. The immigrants have also brought a range of parasites and diseases which have scourged the endemic species.

Hawaii now probably has only six endemic water birds which try to breed in the reduced wet lands; as a result, five are now classed as threatened. Some 120 species of migratory birds have been observed on the beaches and out-lying islands and about two dozen species breed there.

In addition about a dozen game and non-game birds which have been introduced, are thought to be breeding successfully in the bush. Also a similar number of cage escapees have been sighted.

The finch family have had spectacular evolutionary success by developing into more than 50 species and sub-species: the principal developments being in the shape of the beak to suit different foods available, i.e., nectar, insects and seeds etc., Changes in colour and size have also taken place.

We did not have the opportunity to go into the rural areas, but around the cities and beaches we observed the following:-

White feral pigeons

Common Myna

Zebra Dove

Spotted Dove

House Sparrow

House Finch

Chestnut Mannikin

Grey-backed Tern

Acridotheres tristis

Geopelia striata

Streptopelia chinensis

Passer domesticus

Carpodacus mexicanus

Sterna lunata

The Hawaii Audubon Society is actively seeking to protect the native wildlife by conducting meetings, publishing magazines and organizing field trips: further information may be gained by writing to:- The Secretary, Hawaii Audubon Society, P.O.Box 22832, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

#### Bibliographic notes:-

1. Hawaii's Birds.

3rd edition, edited by R.J. Shallenberger  
Honolulu,  
Hawaii Audubon Society 1984.

Florence & Jim Blucher.



MORWELL NATIONAL PARK F.N. EXCURSION 26th SEPTEMBER 1987.

It was one of the warmest, sunniest days of spring when approximately 35 Naturalists met at 10.00am . at the Morwell National Park for the club excursion on 26/9/87.

After enjoying a sociable morning cuppa we gathered around the Park Ranger Ian Roach. Ian was regretful that due to another commitment he was unable to accompany us on our walk, but he proceeded to bring us up to date on Park events.

He informed us that the Friends of the Morwell National Park had enjoyed an outing along Stringy Bark track where they succeeded in finding the site of the old Saw Mill. Not many signs are left now, merely a couple of old posts with nails and a few old logs used for the rail trolley.

The Friends have also completed their third Koala survey. the number of Koalas sighted were 18, 10 and 17 respectively. of these 6 were seen in Foster's Gully on every survey. the Friends are hoping in the long term to establish whether the population is healthy. there was no information on the Koalas within the Park before the survey began.

The Friends are also doing some work on the Butterfly Orchid - Sarcophilus australis. for again there is not much information on the Park files. The group has mapped the individual plants in five sections and hope to establish whether the orchid population also is healthy.

Spotlight walks have been successful with sightings made of Koalas, Ring-tailed Possums, Greater Gliders, one Mountain Possum and one sugar glider. the Common Brush-tailed appears to be the least easily observable of the possums.

Stray dogs continue to be a problem. Some found within the Park had travelled over 3 kilometres from their home.

After Ian had been thanked and made his departure our members set off to discover what the Stringy Bark track, already familiar to most of us, might produce on this day of spring. It proved to be rather dry, but still lovely with many of the wattles wearing their mantles of gold in the main, Varnish - Acacia verniciflua and Straight - A.stricta.

Orchids found in bloom were Musky Caladenias - Caladenia angustata, Maroonhoods - Pterostylis pedunculata, Alpine Greenhoods P.alpina, Tall Greenhoods P.longifolia, and Common Bird Orchids - Chiloglottis gunnii. The botanists were interested to find the turnip-wood - Rapanea howittiana coming into fruit.

Fauna was seen in the shape of 2 Koalas, 3 Echidnas (all in a group) and 4 Lizards. Much interest was taken in two of the latter (possibly skinks) found sunning themselves in the entrance to a hollow log, allowing the photographers to take advantage of the picture made by one small lizard drowsing on the back of the larger one.

Birds were active mainly along the creek and their calls were a delight. In a Pittosporum beside the track a pair of Eastern Yellow Robins were being kept busy visiting their lichen decorated nest to feed two hungrily demanding chicks.

We returned to the carpark where the Crimson rosellas are now so tame that they will eat from one's hand. We enjoyed their company throughout our own meal.



MORWELL NATIONAL PARK EXCURSION.

contd...

After lunch and a rest a few valiant members walked the Foster's Gully circuit. One member who shall remain nameless was instead seduced by a combination of the warm day, the car radio and the footie Grand Final. Out of the thirty or more nosellas that granted us their company at the car park, will we ever again recognise the two cheekiest who somehow came to be christened Carlton and Hawthorn?

Some of us were content to walk with the others for a short distance along Foster's Gully track and then wander back at leisure.

All in all a warm, happy, relaxing day in a National Park renowned for its tranquility.

June Lubcke.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RAINFOREST POLICY DOCUMENT.

On the 3rd of December we attended the launching of the release of the "Victorian Government Rainforest Policy Document."

On the bus park a large marquee had been erected to accommodate the invited guests. The opening was attended by Mrs Joan Kirner and other officials, and various interested groups. Mention was made of the piece of land between Bulga and Tarra Valley park and was given by A.P.M. in exchange for a piece of crown land in another area, thus making it possible to link the two parks. Mrs Kirner then went on to define a rainforest :-

"Rainforest is defined ecologically as closed broadleaved forest vegetation with a more or less continuous rainforest tree canopy of variable height, and with a characteristic composition of species and life forms.

Rainforest canopy species are defined as shade tolerant species of trees which are able to regenerate below an undisturbed canopy, or in small canopy gaps resulting from locally recurring minor disturbances, such as isolated windthrow or lightning strike, which are part of the rainforest ecosystems. Such species are not dependent on fire for their regeneration."

A management plan is being drawn up for the park.

We then went for a short walk with the minister Joan through the park and came back for a delightful lunch.

This is the third launching the Club has been invited to attend in a month.

Quotation on rainforest - taken from "Victoria's Rainforest" an Overview by Conservation Forests and Land.



## EXCURSION TO THE PROPOSED BUNURONG MARINE PARK.

Once again we were fortunate to have a beautiful day for our excursion to the Bunurong Marine area on 27th November 1987.

The car loads of people met at the new Tourist Information Complex at Inverloch. This complex is comprised of an Environment Centre, a Shell Museum which also handles Tourist Information, a toilet block and a car park. The Environment Centre is rented from the Shire of Woorayl by the South Gippsland conservation society. The Society manages and staffs it by voluntary labour and is supported financially by sales over the counter, donations and some fund raising. When our members has satisfied their needs we proceeded to the cars and followed Graeme and Margaret Rowe to Twin Reefs.

The proposed Reserve will extend along Bass Strait from coal Point past Cape Patterson to Wreck Creek near Inverloch; a distance of about 17 km. The Reserve extends 1km seawards from the mean high water mark. The zoning of the Reserve and the activities to be allowed in different parts of the reserve are still being discussed. The proposal set out in the pamphlet suggests that the most protected area will extend from the Oaks to east of Eagles Nest, a distance of about 4km, and this is to be proclaimed the Conservation zone. In this protected area nothing is to be removed from the beach, the sea or the rockpools. On either side of the protected area is a Recreation Zone where it is proposed that angling and spearfishing, for pelagic fish but not reef fish, will be allowed. Crayfish and abalone may also be taken here with the usual restrictions applying.

At Twin Reefs, some members went out to the edge of the reef and were delighted to observe and photograph various types of starfish (7 different species including a very large Coscinasterias calamaria, a large brittle star (Ophionereis schayeri) and a dainty feather star. Members saw hairy stone crabs (Lomis hirta), a sea centipede (Euidotea bakeri), several elephant snails (Scutus antipodes), a peanut worm (Phascolosoma sp.) and, an unusual sight a few small abalone (Haliotis ruber). Those who ventured to the outer western edge of the rockplatform, where the rocks are often pounded by the surf, saw giant rock barnacles (Megabalanus nigrescens), surf barnacles (Catomerus polymerus), the red waratah sea anemone (Actinia tenebrosa) and the chiton, Poneroplax. Members who searched closer to the beach found a sea tulip (pyura pachydermatina), numerous chitons (Ischnoradsia australis) of varying sizes and the usual swimming anemone (Phlyctenactis tuberosa). These were but a few of the many interesting sea creatures which delighted us. The tide began to turn so we wended our way back to the car park for lunch. There we enjoyed the vista before us as we sat on the cliff top looking out to sea.

We continued on to Eagles Nest carpark and visited the intertidal rockplatform where we could see peculiar and oddly shaped rock formations. This platform and rock face mainly consists of sandstone and mudstone with some conglomerate. Pieces of coal and fossilised wood, pieces of harder ironstone and sections of honeycomb weathering added interest to the rocks. Ancient fossils of the huge dinosaur Allosaurus, have been found along this coastline. We noticed that Eagles Nest is weathering; it is weathering to the extent that one day it will collapse and will be lost. It was on this platform that we saw hundreds of periwinkles (Melarapha unifasciata) which only appear above the high water mark. It was the end of a perfect day.

We thanked Margaret for her guidance and left for home.

Peg Wall.



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BUNURONG MARINE RESERVE.

Several members travelled to Eagle's Nest to attend the launching by Ms. Kirner, Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, of the proposal for a Marine Reserve at Bunurong. It is proposed that the reserve should extend from Caal Point to the mouth of Wreck Creek, (app.17km) and from the highwater line for 1 km seaward. Approximately 2/3 of the area will be Recreation Zone and the centre 1/3 will be a Conservation Zone. Unfortunately the weather was extremely windy so Ms Kirner and other visitors were not able to really appreciate the beauty and interest of the area.

Several speakers stressed the importance of conserving the marine life of the area, while some members of the public were not in favour of the project including a small, short demonstration with placards. Ms Kirner emphasised the importance of public participation so that the public interest may be assessed. she asked that the pamphlets published on the proposed park be read and the relevant section filled in and forwarded to the address shown.

As there is opposition from some fisherman and the sewerage authority it is important that members of our Club take this opportunity to express their opinions on this matter.

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REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The Ministry of Conservation, Forests and Lands is seeking public input concerning the plans for the Bunurong Reserve before drawing up final plans. It is important that we give our support to the Reserve others are lobbying against it. The proposed management plan is, in most ways, a sound one and is well worth supporting.

We do not want to see a weakening of the proposal when final plans are drawn up. It is important that the Conservation zone should be at least as large as that suggested in the proposed plan in the pamphlet and that the degree of protection provided in the Reserve should be at least as good as that suggested in the pamphlet.

Members of conservation groups in south gippsland are unhappy with spearfishing (even for selected species only) being permitted in the Recreation Zone. Spearguns are dangerous to the public and their presence encourages an attitude incompatible with the longterm objectives of the Reserve. In the hands of inexperienced, careless or over enthusiastic diver, a speargun can bring a lot of destruction to the marine life.

Information pamphlets and booklets about the proposed reserve are available from the offices of Conservation forests and Lands and Letters are to be sent to Freepost No.3. Box 114, Queenscliff,3225 by 1st February. 1988/.

(late comments will be read, also)

Margaret Rowe.

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THE MINISTER AT Morwell. 2.12.87.

On the day preceding our visit to Morwell National Park the rain poured all day and I waited somewhat uneasily to see what the weather would do on Wednesday when we were to meet Mrs Kirner. When Os offered me transport in his comfortable little van I gladly accepted, taking plenty of wet weather gear. However, by lunchtime the weather had relented and the day became quite fair.

A marquee had been erected opposite the car park, tastefully decorated with bunches of garden grown native flowers, with a posy arranged for the Minister.

Two school buses arrived, one from Heyfield Primary School and the other bringing children from Inverloch and Leongatha South. These schools were the winners in a competition organised by Department of conservation Forests and Land, and the Sawmillers Association. Their work was on display. Mrs Kirner duly arrived with officers of the Regional Branch of the Dept. of Conservation Forests and Land and local dignitaries. Mr Channon opened the proceedings, the schools were congratulated and the winners, Heyfield Primary, presented with a cheque by Mr Stan Collins, President of the Sawmillers Association. The Minister then presented all three schools with handsome wall plaques for their schools.

Mrs Kirner spoke in her usual confident manner, mentioning several local names in connection with the Park's early days. She stressed the fact that the local community must now endeavour to raise some of the cost of the proposed amenities for the new area along Billy's Creek. Os and I were pleasantly surprised to find that Mrs Kirner knew us again although she had previously met us only at Inverloch. Several speakers took the floor after which people circulated and talked in small groups.

Luncheon, prepared by Friends of the Park, was a veritable feast of good things. We felt a little sorry for the school children who carried their own lunches and were marched away to the Clearing to eat it.

The present track down to the flats was considered too wet and slippery after the rains of yesterday, even for 4 wheel drive vehicles. The V.I.Ps were taken up the Jumbuk road for a birdseye view of the creek valley before departing on their various ways. Os and I did a short walk afterwards and found orchids in full bloom, one fine plant with numerous strands bearing fifty blooms. When the newest land acquisition is in full operation with all amenities it should take a good deal of pressure off the small car park in Kerry Road.

Ellen Lyndon.

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOLIDAY.

The Australian National University will be conducting a 1988 Summer School on the environment. All courses will be residential and will be held. 24-28 January Kosciusko National Park.

3-6 February Kioloa South Coast N.S.W.

8-12 February Jervis Bay South coast N.S.W.

12-14 February Kosciusko National Park.

Further information Tel. (062) 493016 - 494754

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## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor 2 Laburnum St. Morwell 3840 Ph. 343659	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>Moe.</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Road Cowwarr 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr.F.Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 23 2747	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Pauline Tully Waddell's Road Nicholson 3882 Ph. 051 568290	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Mrs A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825

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FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$10.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

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Contributions on any aspect of NATural History are invited from  
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

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# Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.

Meeting:

Speaker

Excursion:

Meeting places and times.

Friday February 26th

Mr M.Braby "Eltham Copper Butterfly"

Saturday February 27th to view

Butterfly habitat.

Traralgon Seymour St Bus stop 8.00am

Morwell Car Park Opp Post Office

at 8.15 am

Moe Railway Station Car Park 8.30 am

Bird Group.

Excursion

Monday 7th March

Reserve at Trafalgar

Meet Railwat Stn.Trafalgar 10.00am

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FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH

Action Days

3rd Sunday of the month

Contact J.Brooks 056 231563

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FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

Meeting

2nd Sunday of the month

Contact Gail 221478

Yvonne 222597

---

A.C.F.LOCAL GROUP

Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month at

Legal Aid Office Morwell.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club INC. will be held on Friday March 25th 1988.

Office Bearers to be elected are.

1. Secretary G. Trainor
2. Assistant Secretary F. Blucher
3. Vice President No 2 J. Blucher
4. Vice President No 3 S. Mathews
5. Publicity Officer J. Mewett

Nomination forms will appear in the March Naturalist.

Please give some thought to the election of these office bearers.

If you know of anyone who would be willing to be elected, please contact the Secretary before March 23rd Business Meeting.

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THE RESOURCEFUL COMMUNITY.

Do any members know the whereabouts of this publication?

Three(3) copies of this interesting publication are still "out in the field". It includes an article on the work of the L.V.F.N.C.

Please check your library shelves and favourite reading spots as several members have not as yet had access to a copy.

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FEBRUARY EXCURSION.

More details are to hand re the bus trip February 27th.

We will view the habitat of the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Members of a local group will meet us there. Afterwards we will go to a conservation area at Banyule (near Heidelberg). Members of a group at Montmorency will escort us to the area. This will be the lunch stop as picnic facilities are available here.

If you intend going on the bus trip please contact the Treasurer with your payment no later than Friday meeting. There are people on the waiting list for any cancellations.

Cost \$10.00 per person.

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Conservation Co-ordinator Report.

January 1988.

Bunurong Marine Reserve Draft submission.

Reply received to registration of interest in Tarra-Bulga National Park management. Also received reply from Roadside Environment Awards.

Copy of City of Traralgon Planning Scheme 1957 re tavern on Traralgon Creek Road.

Letter from Commissioner for the environment re State of the Environment report 1988 focusing on Victoria's inland & marine aquatic environments.

Received from DCFL brochure on summary of the major initiatives now underway in East Gippsland.

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INSECTS.

The November meeting found us listening to a well known sporting personality as well as a naturalist. We heard a most interesting and well illustrated talk on insects. Mr John Landy, our speaker, spared us details of insect classification and took for his topic the various ways in which insects protect themselves. Like all animals, particularly those in the wild, insects find themselves in the situation where it is a case of either eat or be eaten.

Mr Landy started with some photographs of various predators and parasites that affect insects, as for example the flower spiders that wait in the centre of daisies for a visiting fly or bee, spiders that spin webs and frogs. Birds of course are major predators of insects and one way of finding out which species of moth are in an area is to find out where willy wagtails feed and look for the wings of the moths they have caught and eaten the body of. Parasites of insects are often small wasps such as those parasitizing the woolly bear caterpillars.

Insects protect themselves from these predators in various ways. One is by having cryptic colouring or camouflage. This is an important feature of insect protection and is seen for example in such insects as grasshoppers which if green will land only on green backgrounds. Other examples shown were looper caterpillars which resemble twigs on trees and shrubs; geometrid moths with wings the colour of tree bark and with lines on their wings to break the outline of the moth. Then there is the caterpillar of the moth (?) which is always found on the under side of a *Pomaderris* leaf right up against the midrib of the leaf. Unlike other caterpillars of this family they do not have ant protectors, and are therefore camouflaged. Many other examples were shown of this particular protective mechanism and how it enables insects to survive. It must be noted that most insects are short sighted and only notice movement rather than outline. Also insects relying on cryptic colouring are able to pick surfaces to land on that suits their particular colours. An excellent example of this is the stick insect with its incredible resemblance to the twigs of the trees in which they live. Some stick insects have beautifully coloured wings which are not often seen. In one species the male's wings are purple, the female's salmon.

Another mechanism for protection is the brightly coloured insect who virtually says "I am most distasteful, a horrible tasting thing!". The Emperor butterfly's caterpillar is very conspicuous, brightly coloured with at least four horns. It and its close relative the Wanderer butterfly are most distasteful and because of this make no attempt to hide from predators. Mr Landy suggested that this knowledge that predators have of the distastefulness is inherited rather than perceived by predators through trial and error as is usually suggested. He suggests that the colour combinations indicate the distaste to the predator.

Assassin Bugs are carnivorous bugs that are noted for their unpleasant odour which repulses predators. This is typical of many bugs that are brightly coloured and which make no effort to hide themselves, their small being a sufficient deterrent. Not all brightly coloured insects are distasteful. In some butterflies it is used to attract a mate. Shield and vegetable bugs also have strong odours and are very distasteful.



INSECTS.

contd...

Other insects use colour for scare tactics. The Mountain Grasshopper for example is beautifully camouflaged when its wing covers are down but if disturbed raises these suddenly to reveal a brightly coloured abdomen. Likewise the Hawk Moth larvae if disturbed may reveal "eyes" which are brightly coloured blue or similar and again the rapid reaction is a big element in the surprise.

Another protective mechanism is communal living. Examples are the larvae and pupa of the Imperial White Butterfly on mistletoe. The pupae in particular hang in groups and if one is disturbed it wriggles convulsively setting off the rest of the group.

Similarly the larvae of the sawflies also form groups and with a leader from birth to pupation do everything together. These are the well known spit-fires found on eucalypts. In one species of sawfly the female guards both eggs and later the young larvae.

Other protection mechanisms are mimicry where a harmless insect looks very similar to a distasteful or a dangerous insect, and where the insect forms galls on a plant. The adult insect usually spends most if not all its life in a gall, each species being identified by the response the plant gives. In some both male and female form separate galls and the male moves to mate with the female through a hole in her gall. She never leaves the gall.

Then there are the cup moth larvae or "Chinese Junks" with four groups of spines that can cause quite an irritation if brushed against and both larvae that have a symbiotic relationship with ants. Symbiosis is a relationship where two organisms mutually benefit each other. In this case the ant carries the moth larva to its nest where the moth larva feed on the ant larvae and produces an anal secretion which is eagerly devoured by the ants. Thus the moth larvae get protection and food and the ant food.

There were many more examples of insect protection given in the talk but the above suffices to give some idea of the great variety and complexity of the topic.

We thank Mr Landy most sincerely for making the long trip from Melbourne.

Barbara Nielsen.

We are all grateful to people who produce these writeups for the Naturalist. There is a list available for members to peruse and decide if they can write up either a talk or an excursion. It may be your task once in a year if it is spread around the members. These writeups don't happen automatically, someone has to offer or be asked before we can have such articles. One does not have to be an expert about the subject, there are good reference books available for use and the speaker will usually consent to see the article before publication.

Ed.



## EXCURSION TO CHILTERN FOREST OCT 20th 1987.

It was a perfect warm spring day as we left Beechworth for our day in the bush. We headed for Chiltern, stopping at the shire boundary where we knew many flowers grew.

the most conspicuous flowers were Golden Moths, Diuris pedunculata-the largest I have ever seen and sprinkled among them were Chocolate Lilies, Dichopogon strictus, Milkmaids, Burchardia umbellata, Sundews Drosera auriculata and the flowers we really stopped to see Purple Diuris D.punctata. These rare beauties are becoming harder to find each year. All these plants grow in moist grassy places and soon there will be Flax Lilies adding their rich blue flowers to the road fringes.

East of Chiltern, before going under a subway we turned right for about a mile till roadworks ended, then again along a bush track. Here we found a veritable wildflower garden on both sides of the road as far as we could see. The big timber was Red Ironbark Euc. sideroxylon, and Red Stringybark, Euc. macrorhyncha. The understory was a profusion of many colours, everything seemed to be in bloom. Most prolific was Daphne Heath, Brachyloma daphnoides scenting the bush with its sweet honey scent. The red combs of Woolly Grevillea G. lanigera contrasted well with the big yellow flowers of Golden Wedge-pea, Gompholobium, and Guinea-flower Hibbertia stricta, with here and there a patch of Common Fringe-Myrtle and Digger's Speedwell Veronica perfoliata. The smaller plants were Triggers Stylidium graminifolium, Chocolate Lilies and Sun-orchids, Dotted Sun-orchids Thelymitra ixioides and Salmon Sun-orchids T. rubra. On looking closer we discovered Muskies, Caladenia angustata and lots of Brown-beards Calochilus robertsonii.

We have found Flying Duck-Orchids on other visits but did not see any on this trip. Each of us went in different directions to see the most in the time we had and all three of us were delighted with what we saw.

I saw something scuttling under a clump of Daphne Heath and to my surprise saw it was a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater with wings half spread. That only meant one thing, her nest was very near. Instead of flying up just in front of me the clever little bird had dropped to the ground and tried to lead me away. I went away and sat under a big Ironbark, watching, waiting. Two Yellow-tufteds came to a tree beyond where the nest was but would not fly down so I went further away. Later I returned and circled the clump of undergrowth and saw a lovely little cradle with one pink egg spotted darker. I just glimpsed and went softly away not to disturb the birds any more.

Next we drove through Chiltern and along the Rutherglen road to Donkey Hill track. We drove to the hill top and ate lunch at the picnic table while admiring the views of the hills towards Yackandandah and Beechworth. Here we heard and saw birds flying and singing everywhere. The Grey Shrike-thrush and Rufous Whistler were loud and clear and I heard again the see-saw singing of the Rufous Song-lark as he flew from one dead tree to another. Here the flowers were very lovely also but being more open and drier the Golden Everlastings Helichrysum bracteatum were in abundance and the orchids were finished. A family of Blue Wrens were twittering in the grass and several varieties of little birds feeding among the gum leaves.



EXCURSION TO CHILTERN FOREST.

contd...

Only a few metres from where we sat we watched a pair of busy little Sitellas searching along the branches of a partly dead gum tree. I watched through my field glasses, and to my delight saw one little bird pop into a neat little nest right in the fork of two branches and just the same shade of grey. We watched as the the little birds took it in turns to pop into the nest, add a little bit then turn around and around to shape the nest to a perfect fit. We were ever so thrilled, none of us had seen Sitellas building their nest before. After exploring a little along the hillside we spread a rug in the shade. No sooner had we settled down to read when a tiny Spotted Pardalote came and perched in a branch not far above our heads and started calling. We had hoped not to be sitting on his nest burrow but my sister indicated a hollow where a tree stump had been burnt out and there we saw the neat little burrow entrance. That was three nests in one day for us who were not usually any good at finding nests. More was to come. We noticed a pair of little grey birds flying back and forth to a low bunch of gum leaves a little way off. They were like White-throated Warblers but no white throat or yellow breast. I walked down to their tree and there, sure enough was the typical "Hanging Dickies" nest as my father called them. It is built of red stringybark and has a long tail of bark hung among the leaves on a low branch usually. We were still puzzled about them until we consulted Slaters and the description of Western Warbler fitted it exactly. The noticeable difference from the White-throated is white in the tail seen in flight. So that was four nests and we turned happily for home. We had only driven a few metres when we slowed to a stop to watch a beautifully marked Painted Quail on the road. We all agreed it had been a special day, at the height of spring when bright sunshine showed off all the bush inhabitants in their full glory.

Here is my bird list for the day.

Green-backed Oreole	Black-faced Duckoo Shrike
Red-wattle Bird	Rainbow Bird
Australian Magpie	Dusky Wood Swallow
Magpie Lark	Welcome Swallow
White Cockatoo	Raven
Rufous Songlark	Kookaburra
Western Warbler & nest	Crested Pigeon
Yellow Tufted Honeyeater & nest	Starling
White-plumed Honeyeater	White-winged Chough
Spotted Pardalote & nest	Grey Fantail
Rufous Whistler	Willie Wagtail
Grey Shrike thrush	Noisy Friar-bird
Painted Quail	Blackbird
Blue Wrens	Galah
White-throated Tree Creeper	Striated Thornbill
Orange-winged Sittellas & nest	Sparrow
	Fuscous Honeyeater

May Galbraith.  
Beechworth.



REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD JANUARY 13th 1988.

Mathison Park. Advice received from Minister for Housing and Construction on an agreement to ensure public ownership of the area. Plans to go on display soon. Morwell Shire to advise us when display is mounted.

Manning Drive Bush Area. (Churchill) M. Austin contacted - plant list, map and designation of area required.

Dept. C.F. & L. Grants. Decided to apply for Grant of \$700.00.

Application forwarded to Dept. Planning & Environment.

Alternative Venue for Monthly Meetings. If Education room not available we have been offered "SCOPE" meeting place in Albert St.

Secretary to check cost.

Club Film Projectionist. Julie Parker is a trained projectionist and has offered to assist.

World Environment Youth Award. Barry Traill, after consideration, has declined nomination but appreciated our interest.

February Meeting. M. Braby confirmed. BUS Trip to Eltham and Olinda arranged. Cost of bus trip is \$10.00. Payment before excursion would be appreciated by the Treasurer.

Correspondence Baringa School re Fair 19/3/88. V. Callister re support of Grants. Commissioner for Environment re notes on Yearly Report Objectives. C.C.V. Questionnaire, Joint Taskforce on Intractable Waste re Terms of Reference etc. From B. Murphy, R. Long, F. Wilkes re Mathison Park. R. Walsh re Advice on re-zoning of Mathison Park. R.A.O.U. re Rotamah Island Bird Sanctuary.

West Gippsland Tree Group re Meeting dates & Information.

Periodicals Clematis, Environment Vic, Geelong Naturalist, WETA, N.E. Tas. Naturalist, N.T. Naturalist, SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter, Victorian Naturalist. Dept. Water Resources.

COMBINED EXCURSION with Bairnsdale F.N.C. Enjoyed last excursion and would like another trip to Holey Plains State Park this time.

Further information when date confirmed.

Commissioner for Environment Annual Report, 1988 will focus on Victorias inland and marine aquatic environments. We will send the Committee relevant submissions. Included will be our submission on proliferation of pines from pine plantations into areas of native bush.

Book Donation Thanks to M. Vinnell for books to be included in Library. Advice received re new Orchid Book. Ron Court will view the book and we will be advised at General Meeting.

Lyrebird Creek Logging. Comments received from group of walkers on logging carried out in the headwaters of the Creek. Regrowth extremely difficult because of slope, southerly aspect and altitude. Conservation Committee following this up. will be able to ask questions of C.F.L. in 4-6 weeks time.

Bunurong Marine Reserve Members requested to support the efforts of committee at Inverloch. Forward comments on Reserve using Brochure available.

Duck Survey. Assistance sought for weekend 6/7 February 1988.

suggested 10.00am Moe Sewerage Farm, then Morwell Sewerage Farm.

Supper Roster February 26th NRees M. Huxley

The next Business meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th February at Y.M.C.A. ROOMS Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Any interested persons are welcome at these meetings when all aspects of Club activities are discussed.



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## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor 2 Laburnum St. Morwell 3840 Ph. 343659	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>Moe.</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Road Cowwarr 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr.F.Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 23 2747	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Pauline Tully Waddell's Road Nicholson 3882 Ph. 051 568290	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon. Treasurer

Mrs A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825

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FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$10.00

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

Hon.Editor  
Mrs.L.Long  
99 Chamberlain Road  
Newborough 3825.



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MARCH 1988  
ISSUE Nº 291



# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting; Friday March 25th Annual Meeting  
Film "Sexual Encounters of a Floral Kind"  
Excursion: Saturday March 26th to Inverloch  
Meeting Place: Inverloch Environment Centre  
at 10.00 am.

BIRD GROUP:

Meeting: Monday April 11th (note change )

Meeting Place: Cowwarr Weir.  
Oasis at Toongabbie at 10.00 am  
Meeting place now at Cowwarr Weir South side.

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FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH.

Action days 3rd Sunday of the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks  
(056) 231563

---

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NAT. PARK.

Meeting 2nd Sunday of the month  
Contact Gail 221478  
Yvonne 222597

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A.C.F. LOCAL GROUP.

Meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month  
Legal Aid Office  
Morwell.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1987-1988.

Well, what a wonderful year it has been! Everything almost seems to have gone like clock work. But this couldn't have happened without a lot of hard work by a lot of people, to whom I am extremely grateful.

A big thankyou to Mrs Trainor for her tremendous support as Secretary and who was ably assisted by Mrs Blucher. thankyou to you both. Thankyou Mr Trainor for his support and advice.

Vice President No.1. Mr Wall, has been very supportive once again and there have been times when I've had to lean on him throughout the year. He has always been ready with advice and assistance, so a big thankyou to you too, especially for your work in obtaining the loud speaker system and walkie-talkies for the Club.

Thankyou to all members of the executive for their hard work during the year, apart from those already mentioned, especially Treasurer, Mrs Stewart; Magazine Editor, Mrs Long; Conservation Co-ordinator Mrs Thompson, this year assisted by Mr Grigg and Publicity Officer, Mr Mewett for his very informative reports which appear every month in the local media.

In addition I wish to thank all the other people involved in producing the magazine, typing, printing, collating, folding and distributing the magazine. The magazine's high standard has continued to be noticed in high places and you will recall that this was acknowledged in a letter from the head of the Warragul Region of the Department of conservation Forests and Lands.

Thankyou also to our Latrobe Regional Commission and Landscape Committee representative, Mr Wall; Morwell Overburden and Rehabilitation Consultative committee representative, Mr Blucher; Conservation Forests and Lands Management Committee representative, Mr Thompson, who also represents us on the wirilda Progress Association; leader of the Bird Group, Mrs Lubcke; Car Sticker Secretary, Mrs Plant and Edward Hunter Reserve Committee representative Mr Mathews. In addition thanks go th Mrs Mathews for looking after our supper for the past year

A very big thankyou to Mrs Crane who has been our Name Tag Secretary for so many years and has now found it necessary to step down. I wonder if she knows how many name tags she has made over the years?

Sincere thanks to all those people whose hard work in preparation for and conducting both the Christmas break-up and the Campout at Licola made both evants such a success. Thankyou once again to Mr and Mrs Ringin for the use of their beautiful property at coalville for the break-up.

Spearheaded by Mrs Thompson, ably assisted by her husband, we have made important gains in Comservation during the year, having input into the extension of Morwell National Park, the saving of Mathison Park from housing development and the creation of Moondarra State Park and Tyers Regional Park.

Although there were many changes to our 1987 programme due to speakers being unable to attend for various reasons, we again had an extremely varied and interesting programme, as well as many very good speakers. It was pleasing that we were able to provide very good speakers from within our own ranks, and I particularly wish to thank those members who stepped in when needed, sometimes at rather short notice.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

contd...

Subjects covered over the year were as diverse as Philip Island Fairy Penguins, Biology of Westernport Bay, Flora of Crete, Geology, Ecology of A.P.M. water system, Evolution, Tasmania, Birds of East Gippsland and Insects. Speakers were Claire Speadie, Hilary Weatherhead, Jurgan Schaeffer, Graeme Scarlett, Jane Calder, John Landy (yes, he was the ex runner) and club members David Thomas, Jim Wall and Barry Traill. We have had excursions to Phillip Island, Walkerville (2) Ada Tree, Bunurong (2), A.P.M., Moondarra State Park, Peterson's Lookout, Morwell National Park, Dutson Downs (jointly with Bairnsdale F.N.C.) and Cowwarr and Wirilda State Forest.

In addition, I would like to say how pleased I am that due to the efforts of all the people I have mentioned and all of our members, the Club seems to be going from strength to strength. Our meeting room has almost reached capacity on several occasions, there have been large turn outs for excursions and yet the Club still seems as friendly as ever.

Lets hope we can keep up the good work in 1988.

Jane Purbrick, President.

REPORT ON THE LATROBE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE 1987-88.

Discussion on Draft Code of Practice for Tree Felling. Consensus on Soft Wood Planting. Comments on Draft Code of Practice for Tree Clearing. Committee agrees that tree clearance around Power Lines should be under direct supervision of the S.E.C.V.

Maps on Roadside Vegetation distributed all Municipalities.

Roadside Management policies to be developed for the region when funding available.

Committee has had no response from V Line re management of Toongabbie Cowwarr, and Dawson Rail Reserves.

Committee supported nomination of L.V.F.N.C.Inc. on the Loy Yang and Traralgon south Reserves, the Flora and Fauna of the Tyers- Walhalla Road Reserve.

L.L.C. wrote to Councils suggesting that the said Council notify community when trees are to be removed.

Guest Speaker in August was Mr Cameron Gourley, Research Scientist in the Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Traralgon shire was approached regarding removal of trees on Tyers-Walhalla Road without consultation with the community.

Submission on the L.C.C. - S.E.C.V. Special Investigation.

The Latrobe Regional Commission's Landscape issues were discussed in full. The Landscape Committee has been involved with the L.R.C. to assist in improvements of the Central Landscape and Revegetation of wasteland.

Latrobe Valley Landscape Project conducted by Prof. Alex C Rattray. L.L.C. to participate in a Consultative Committee.

It is possible that in the future the L.L.C. will come under the control of the L.R.C. but with a certain leeway to be agreed on.

J.Wall, Representing the  
Latrobe Valley F.N.C.Inc.



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FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK REPORT.

Continuing progress in our Group's objective of assisting development and promotion of the Park by persisting with our activities in assessing and exploring areas in revealing still more beauty and variety in this treasurehouse of Nature.

In going through a new part, we have to establish an access track or it is pretty certain the treasures we find may be lost it seems for ever, as happened on a number of occasions. But when looking for some such thing, you just may find something quite different. That was how the Standing Giant was discovered in a futile attempt to re-find an attractive patch of treeferns which we presume are still somewhere!

So, pioneering the name of the game with practical enjoyment the way our Friends Group is making this Park more usable for everybody. In the year just past, we have established a further 3Kms of tracks bringing the total pioneered by the Group to 22Kms, plus the 4Kms made exclusively by the Park management, a total of over 26 Kms of tracks for walking. And amongst other activities, in addition to the already placed 10 bridges, a substantial bridge suitable for vehicles was made up from freshly fallen Blackwood trees and placed over Survivor Creek (so called because it refused to accept being buried alive by a land clearer) also 7 guided tour/inspection days were a rather important feature of the 24 action days of the Group.

The latest project was planned with the primary object of providing an easy walk for people for whom the usual tracks call for a degree of fitness not possessed by quite a few of the somewhat disadvantaged who could thereby be allowed to share the enjoyment of the Park's riches. The new track goes up the Moonlight Creek Valley and as usual we have a number of truly delightful features to be seen on the way up, and on the return, different, equally attractive scenes are noticeable.

And, by the way, as the Park is ours, yours and mine, how about "joining" the Friends Group and helping to make it more available to more of our friends. It is right here in Victoria - not far away in another part of the Continent. Its status is first class and dropping in for an action day now and again is probably as good a way as any to get to see and know some of the very special places. The 3rd Sunday in the month, except December, usually at the Car Park Picnic Ground at 10.00am.

Jack Brooks  
Friends Co-ordinator

---

1987 Annual Report Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists ClubCAR STICKER REPORT.

Stickers sold to the value of \$107.50

70 to Clubs      3 to members.

Balance in bank to 23.2.1988

\$384.35

Valma Plant  
Car Sticker Secretary.



CRINIGAN ROAD REPORT 1987-88

We still have the Crinigan Road reserve as a reserve, as we were a little worried at one stage last year, when a report from the Land Conservation Council on all S.E.C. land owned in the Latrobe Valley Area, showing the Crinigan Rd. reserve area being able to be sold for private industry.

But after making representations to the Morwell Council and L.C.C. they assured us that it would not be sold. Morwell Council told us that they had an order in Council that the land could never be sold for private purposes.

When the final report from the L.C.C. came out, it showed that the area would be reserved as bushland for the people of Morwell and district to enjoy as has been the case in the past.

We have had a meeting with a representative of S.E.C. on fire prevention and burning off, and have come to an agreement that when any burning off is carried out, that it be a slow controlled burn.

A representative of Neighbourhood House made a proposal of establishing a community garden on vacant land in the South-east corner of the reserve, but after a study of the project over a few months it was decided to be not practicable.

The cutting of the fire-breaks was done much better this year, the contractor going around the young eucalypts, instead of driving straight over the trees and cutting them off.

Rubbish that had been dumped by residents living in Crinigan Voad has been attended to, also rubbish that has been continually dumped in the car parking area.

There is a possibility that the entrance to the reserve from the Maryvale Rd. end, down Golf Club Rd. may be cut off. There has been a suggestion put to Morwell Council that the road be closed, and the only entrance will be from the bottom of Crinigan Rd. along Fairway Drive by the Soccer Club end.

E.T.C. Lubcke.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL GIPPSLAND LAND PROTECTIONTRARALGON REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

In the past 12 months I have attended all six bi-monthly meetings. The April 1987 meeting being the last for the Traralgon Region, since then the Traralgon and Warragul regions have been amalgamated and is now the Central Gippsland Region. Elected and appointed members from both areas form a joint committee with the two chair persons alternating. The number of members will be reduced following the tri-annual elections at the end of 1988.

I attended the two day conference at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute when many subjects were covered; some of which were "Land Care", biological weed control, pest control, salination and erosion.

Other activities during the year included field trips to alpine areas assessing problems caused by off-road vehicles, horse safaris, grazing leases and timber extraction. On other occasions serious erosion areas at Stratford, Kilmany, etc. were inspected and large areas of serious salination.



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CENTRAL GIPPSLAND LAND PROTECTION contd...

Several "Land Care" programmes have been instigated in the region. One is the reclamation work on Fells Creek at Kilmany which involves about 9 land-holders along the creek where steep banks are battered and various tree species are planted to combat erosion. Another "Land Care" project at Narracan is the mutual co-operation of some 47 Land-holders on about 210 ha to combat weed and pest problems such as ragwort, blackberries and rabbits.

My time spent on this committee has been very interesting and informative.

O. Thompson.

---

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS.

The following offices will be

declared vacant.

Secretary 2 year term Mrs G. Trainor

Ass. Secretary 1 year term Mrs Blucher has advised that she can no longer accept this position.

Vice President No 1 Mr Blucher

Vice President No 3 3 Mr Mathews is unavailable for re-election

Publicity Officer Mr J. Mewett

If you feel you can help with any of these positions please contact the Secretary before Annual Meeting.

Thankyou.

---

FEBRUARY MEETING QUESTIONS.

At the last general meeting questions were asked about the Wilderness areas mentioned in Mr F. Noble's letter and areas closed to four-wheel drives in the Bunyip area.

In January 1977 the Land Conservation council recommended that 13,500 ha of public land at Bunyip be preserved as the Bunyip State Park.

In June 1979 the Land Conservation council recommended in the Alpine Study area that 29,500 ha, which includes parts of catchments of Avon, Doldrook and Turtin Rivers, be declared the Avon Wilderness Area.

Then in February 1983 another 12,200 ha, which included more of the reaches of the Avon and Turtin Rivers and McColl Creek with the head-water catchments to Ben Cruachan Creek, were added to the Avon Wilderness Area in the recommendations for the Hinterland.

---

Members who knew Florence Kinniburgh will be sorry to hear that she died while on a trip to Arizona recently. Florence was a member of the Club in the 1960's -70's. Some Club members attended the Memorial Service for her in Morwell.

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REPORT OF THE BIRD OBSERVING GROUP.

The "first Monday of the month" Bird Observing excursions have again proved popular throughout the year.

Four excursions were taken up with a survey of the Latrobe River in conjunction with the Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board. Other excursions were to Bulga Park, Venus Bay, Cowwarr Weir, Walhalla Sale Common, and Morwell National Park.

In addition to normal excursions, two Duck Surveys were carried out on behalf of the Dept. of Conservation forests and Lands, and a day was spent in Moondarra State Park when members were invited to lead an excursion of the Melbourne Bird Observers Club.

June Lubcke.

---

WIRILDA PROJECT ASSOCIATION 1987-88

During the past year increased membership and interest has resulted in more activity and achievements at Wirilda.

The appointment of a part-time ranger in July 1987 has resulted in an improved picnic area with increasing use by the public. Very soon it is hoped to lock the park every night to combat the annoying and destructive vandalism. Some of the improvements are as follows. :-

Dangerous dead trees removed ; grass in the picnic area slashed several times; toilet block painted and improved ; tables and seats repaired and painted. A farm shed has been converted to lock up store for ranger's use; a large Wirilda Environment Park sign has been erected at the main entrance.

Valued assistance in the form of labour and material has been given to the Wirilda project during the year by Rotary and others.

O. Thompson.

---

REHABILITATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP REPORT.

The group has made steady progress on a number of projects and the results are summarised as follows:-

Morwell Overburden - public consultation:  
Arrived at an interim conclusion favouring open woodland/ wetland with some elements of passive recreation to provide for public access.

Westbrook Gully: all aspects proceeding to plan reasonably well.

Saviges Track: rehabilitation "final" plan has been developed and is being "fine tuned" +.

East Field: progress report made, an interesting wetland cost value analysis of a possible project in the Blue Lagoon area showed up some good results which may be achieved for a moderate outlay.

Yallourn Open Cut: some further work proposed to be done on the western batters.

F.J. Blucher  
L.V.F.N.C. Delegate.



---

OCTOBER EXCURSION WITH BARRY TRAILL.

The morning was mild and overcast as we met at Toongabbie for our bird excursion, lovely weather for birds, but not so easy for those wishing to observe- no sun to highlight the plumage. As we drove away our sharp eyed guide noticed some rainbow lorikeets in the trees nearby.

We travelled to Cowarr Weir, noting the usual magpies and pied currawongs, as we went. On arrival, spinebills were feeding in the grevilleas planted at the weir, whilst blue wrens hopped around our feet. Binoculars came into action to observe water birds on the lake, coots and dusky moorhens and a domestic goose rather out of place in the picture. In the tall trees were yellow-winged honeyeaters and we were able to watch the colourful mistletoe birds feeding.

We drove on to Stony Creek, and our guide led us to the stream, with rufous whistlers in almost every tree. Arriving at the creek, there was more water than anticipated, but our guide insisted we must cross and gallantly offered to pick-a-back anyone not wishing to get wet feet. Gwyneth took him up on his offer and no doubt arrived on the other side in a drier state than those of us who decided to boulder hop. We were not yet at our destination, so it was crocodile file and bush bash up a rise and into a gully but, alas, the sittellas we had hoped to see were not in evidence that day. We returned to the cars stopping to observe a brown-headed honeyeater in the bushes at the creek's edge.

A peaceful lunch was eaten by the stream, then on to Glenmaggie Weir, passing through dry, sandy country, where we found those comical fellows, the choughs, collaborating in a paddock. They allowed us to observe a while, then the warning cry went out, and off they flew.

On arrival at Glenmaggie Weir we inspected the small plantation there, disturbing a blue-tongued lizard, then walked along the weir where a cormorant was feeding. We spent a good deal of time in the bush watching and listening to the golden and rufous whistlers. also present were yellow-tailed thornbills and a female rufous whistler, while many scarlet robins played on the fences. Barry pointed out a small bird above us as a wee bill, quite a find, and a first sighting for many of us. We had a little difficulty getting out of the area, as the men working on the weir had finished for the day and locked us in, but keys were soon produced and we were free again.

Just to complete the day some members decided to stop on the way home to check the Purple Diuris orchids which the Thompsons have been caring for at the old Dawson Railway Station site. What a picture met our eyes; flowers everywhere, and the orchids, since the C.F.L. have fenced the area from grazing cattle, have been b-l'd enough to spread themselves onto the land on the other side of the railway line.

Back to birds, we noted many native minors and a chough mud nest before we thanked Barry and returned home.

Val Larson.

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REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23rd 1988.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$672.56.

Accounts for payment. Conservation \$89.14. Photocopy \$8.32

Hall Hire \$30.00 Secretary \$76.30.

Bairnsdale F.N.C. will have a joint excursion to Holey Plains on October 18th. further details later.

Volunteers needed to write up meetings and excursions.

Secretary has list.

Correspondence A.C.F. re publicity C.C.V re meeting in Sale  
Dept. Cons Forests Lands re Wilderness area Avon River.

Melbourn University Press re book "Name That Flower" by Ian Clarke and Helen Lee \$29.95.

Minister Planning & Environment and Miss Callister re grants for Environment purposes. /City of Moe re Red Cross Appeal.

Victorian Nat. Parks Association re book "Alps in Flower" by Ian Mc Cann. Guide to flowers in Alpine Region. We are able to have a considerable discount to members.

M.T. Naturalist Club re annual Meeting.

F.H.C.V. re Aust. Natural History Medallion nominations, we are supporting current nomination.

Rainbow alliance Newsletter (political)

Australian Ranger Bulletin. SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter.

East Gippsland a bright future booklet (C.F.L.)

Details from V.F.N.C.A. re meeting on March 12-14 at Princetown.

General. Christmas Breakup Dec 10th will be at BUNDILLA property of the Ringins at Coalville. Discussion re possible working bee by members prior to that date.

Vote of thanks to Mrs Blucher and Mr Blucher for their work during the campout at Licola.

Discussion re Annual Meeting and election of Office Bearers.

Nomination forms appear in this issue of Naturalist.

Also reminder that Annual Subscriptions are now due. Refer back page.

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Correspondence In. Dept. Planning & Environment re Nomination form for Magnificent Trees.

Draft Code of Forest Practices - Critical Response from Vic. Nat. Parks. Thankyou from Commissioner for the Environment for copies of submissions forwarded.

Correspondence out. Submission on Mallee Area Review to L.C.C.

Proposal for the Bunurong Marine Reserve to DCFL.

Report on above correspondence from VNPA.

Report on annual report 1986-87 Dept. of Water Resources.

Present draft copy of submission on Tarra-Bulga National Park Issues  
Statements on planning proposals.

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Supper Roster March 25th

Val Larson Florence Blucher

The next business meeting will be held on Wednesday March 23rd at YMCA Rooms Morwell at 7.30 pm.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor 2 Laburnum St. Morwell 3840 Ph. 343659	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>Moe.</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Road Cowwarr 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr.F.Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 23 2747	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Pauline Tully Waddell's Road Nicholson 3882 Ph. 051 568290	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon. Treasurer

Mrs A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825

NATURALIST \$ 8.00

FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$10.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the  
Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of NATural History are invited from  
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

Hon.Editor  
Mrs.L.Long  
99 Chamberlain Road  
Newborough 3825.



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APRIL 1988.

ISSUE 292

# *Lalrobo Valley Naturalist*



PROTECT AND ENJOY.

65<sup>c</sup>

REG. AUST. POST VBH 1569



COMING EVENTS.Latrobe Valley F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting: Friday April 22nd  
Speaker: Sid Cowling -- Wild Life, trade & Possession in Vic. & Australia.  
Excursion: Saturday April 23rd in Sale area.  
Meeting Place: Lake Guthridge 10.00am  
(behind Police Stn,)

Bird Group.

Meeting: Monday 2nd May Blue Rock Dam  
Meeting Place : Picnic area Blue Rock Dam 10.00am  
First turn off to B.R.Dam on Willow Grove road.  
Leader: Mrs N. Rees

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Warragul F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

Meeting: Sunday 8th May 1.30pm.  
Meeting Place Roundabout at end of Tebb Tee  
Speaker: Guest Speaker talk about Billy's Ck.  
Contact Gail 221478 Yvonne 222597

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Friends of Mt Worth Park.

Action Days 3rd Sunday of month.  
Contact J. Brooks for details (056 231563)

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A.C.F. Local Group

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of month  
Legal aid Office Morwell.

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BIRD SPECIES RECORDED IN THE LICOLA DISTRICT 22-25 JANUARY 1988.

Visiting this district with several members of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club for their annual pilgrimage to the high country I have been able to compile a list of 51 species.

This list is not as comprehensive as I would have liked to present for publication. It should not be considered a complete list for that area.

Certainly it was difficult to record any nocturnal species by call because of the amplified sounds of rifle fire coming from several adjacent riverside camps below our own!

I did note the sparse nature of birdlife at one higher altitude location where it was anticipated that species would be recorded. Two other members of the same party also commented upon this apparent 'birdless habitat'. No speculation as to why can be offered for visits to this and other areas along the Mt. Tamboritha road were of short duration.

I am sure members will have access to a bird list compiled from previous visits and reference should be made to this to either confirm former records or add new ones as the case may be.

Contributors to this list have been included with a list of references for further study or reading should members so desire.

Name of Species.	Observation Type
Pied Cormorant	1 bird, aerial -lower slopes Wellington River
Maned Duck	8+ birds, as aerial group as above.
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3 birds altogether, aerial.
Australian Kestrel	1 bird, alpine meadow, snowy Range Aerodrome.
Stubble Quail	1 bird, flushed roadside Mt. Tamboritha road.
Latham's Snipe ( <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> )	1 bird flushed from alpine bog, Higgin's property, Bennison Plains.
Wonga Pigeon	1 bird flushed from Mt. Tamboritha road.
Galah	8+ birds, as pairs and small groups, aerial and noisy at the old dingo-proof fence Gilder property.
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	6+ birds as above.
Australian King Parrot	Calls only recorded from base camp.
Crimson Rosella	1 bird in adult plumage Snowy Range Aerodrome location, calls round base camp.
Brush Cuckoo	Calls recorded only once 25 January.
Shining Bronze Cuckoo ( <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i> <i>plagosus</i> )	1 immature-plumaged bird observed below base camp at river bend; also calls.
White-throated	1 bird, aerial treetop level below base camp.
Needletail	2 birds, aerial one of which flew to ground level at Snowy Range Aerodrome.
Laughing Kookaburra	Calls from group at dawn and observed at camp.
Sacred Kingfisher	1 bird observed and calls suggesting food being brought to young recorded in riverside vegetation below base camp.
Superb Lyrebird	Scratchings evident along track leading into gorge at Dinner Creek.



BIRD SPECIES IN LICOLA DISTRICT. contd...NAME OF SPECIESOBSERVATION TYPE.

Welcome Swallow	1 bird observed roosting at same location in rock crevice as 1987 campout by Val Larson; 1 bird aerial Snowy Range Aerodrome location.
Richard's Pipit	1 bird flushed roadside Mt Tamboritha road.
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1 bird observed obtaining caterpillar from eucalypt foliage below base camp; 1 bird also recorded Higgin's property, Bennison Plains.
Flame Robin	3 brown birds at snowy Range Aerodrome 2 brown birds at Higgin's gate 24/1/88 No coloured birds recorded. All birds observed feeding from the ground. Calls given by a male at base camp 25 January.
Scarlet Robin	Dawn and Dusk calling; u/c birds round base camp.
Eastern Yellow robin	2 birds recorded roadside Mt Tamboritha Road.
Jacky Winter	1 bird observed feeding along eucalypt limb giving low contact calls. Male very vocal at base camp.
Crested shrike-tit	Calls at base camp.
Rufous Whistler	1 male observed at river bend vegetation below base camp. Calls only recorded at base camp.
Grey shrike-thrush	1 bird observed roadside vegetation near gate of camp. I noted that this particular bird had deeper colouring of underparts similar to species (NZ)
Leaden Flycatcher	Calls only at river bend below base camp.
Satin Flycatcher	5 birds flushed from roadside Mt. Tamboritha Rd. by B.Thompson; 1bird flushed same road day later J.Vincent.
Grey Fantail	u/c birds base camp. calls of 1 bird at bridge at Glenmaggie Weir 25 January.
Eastern Whipbird	groups of 3 or more birds at base camp
Spotted quail-thrush	1 bird observed feeding on eucalypt trunk by spiralling upwards Also calls
Superb Fairy-wren	Calls at Snowy Range Aerodrome
Weebill	Calls only heard at base camp.
Brown Thornbill	2 birds observed obtaining food from rock crevices at river bend below base camp.
White-throated Treecreeper	calls only at Higgin's property, Bennison Plains.
Red Wattlebird	u/c birds observed and heard at river swimming hole below base camp.
Noisy Friarbird	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	
White-eared Honeyeater	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	



BIRD SPECIES IN LICOLA DISTRICT

contd...

NAME OF SPECIESOBSERVATION TYPE.

White-naped Honeyeater	u/c birds as a small party foraging among eucalypt foliage at river bend below base camp. Also calls.
Spotted Pardalote	Recorded by calls only. At base camp and Bryce's Gorge. Not the usual 'sleep baby' calls. I can only describe what I hear as a high-pitched 'lilting' call of several notes which I take to be a contact call.
Striated Pardalote	u/c number of birds recorded feeding in eucalypt foliage. 1 bird observed tearing lerps from back of leaf. At base camp and Bryce's Gorge calls heard were not the usual 'pick-it-up' notes, but low 'chirrips' given as a contact call. Regular seasonal visitor to my garden.
Olive-backed Oriole	8-12 birds feeding from the ground at base camp.
Dusky Woodswallow	1 bird observed and calls at river bend & swimming hole sites below base camp.
Australian Magpie	3 birds Snowy Range Aerodrome location.
Pied Currawong	Calls only at base camp.
Grey Currawong	calls only, heard once, at base camp.
Australian Raven	u/c number of birds. Records at Higgin's property, Bennison Plains; also along road to Glenmaggie.

Joan Vincent.

Taxonomic order used is taken from the Atlas of Australian Birds. M.Blakers, et al. R.A.O.U. 1984

Contributors to the list were - GFlorence and Jim Blucher, Val Larson, Ellen Lyndon, Bon & Ollie thompson, Joan Vincent.

References

- 1926 Checklist of the Birds of Australia. R.A.O.U. Second and Revised Edition.
- 1963 What Bird Is That ? Neville W.Cayley. Reprint.
- 1969 Birds of the Australian High Country. ed. H.J.Frith.
- 1975 Checklist of the Birds of Australia, Pt.1. Non-passerines H.T.Condon R.A.O.U.
- 1975 Interim List of Australian Songbirds - Passerines. R.Schodde. R.A.O.U.
- 1980 A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia. Graham Pizzey.
- 1984 The Atlas of Australian Birds. M.Blakers, et al. R.A.O.U.
1986. The Field Guide to Australian Birds. Peter Slater et al.
- 1988 Field Notes. Joan Vincent.



REPORT ON EDWARD HUNTER RESERVE.

Improvements carried out during the past year have been appreciated by the many people who use the park.

Walking tracks have been cleared at the edges and widened, some tracks have had more gravel or metal added.

An attractive sign has been erected at the Coalville entrance. The nearby shelter has been completed and a drinking tap installed. Seats amade from split logs have been provided throughout the park.

With the ever present fire hazard in mind, planned clearing has been carried out.

Tree planting programmes have been extensive with a nearly 100% success.rate.

The highlight of the year was the building and official opening of the foot bridge over the small stream adjacent to the fern gully. Joe's Mayor, Mrs Margaret Adams declared the bridge open , cutting a ribbon and unveiling a plaque.

The gathering of Councillors, workers, Committee Members and members of the general public and students from local primary schools and Yallourn Tech. enjoyed afternoon tea.

A Management Strategy Plan has been called for and it is hoped that this will be implemented shortly.

S.Mathews.

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At the Annual Meeting March 25th elections took place and the following people were elected/re-elected to office.

Secretary Mrs G.Trainor

Assistant Secretary Mrs Marilyn Marschaleck

Vice President No 1 J.Blucher

Vice President NO 2 P.Rayment

Publicity Officer J.Mewett

Mrs N.Rees was appointed Name Tag secretary.

The Club cannot function without office bearers so if you think you could help with any of the Club Offices please contact the Secretary at your earliest convenience.

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BANKSIA CANEII.

Some members collected cones from this species at Dinner Creek Gorge. I grew this very ornamental banksia for years, the tiny plants being given me by Mr Cane. I could never induce the seed to strike, no matter what I did. He said it is necessary to put the cones in the fridge for the winter and then try the seeds again before success can be a expected.

Ellen Lyndon.

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SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS 2.3.87 - 29.2.88

Balance at 2.3.87	Cheque Account	602.01	
	Investment Account	1279.08	
Bank Interest	Cheque Account	21.65	
	Investment Account	144.17	
Membership Subscriptions		200.00	
Magazine Subscriptions		738.00	
Ministry of Planning & Environment (invest acc)		500.00	
Dept. Labour (C.E.P. scheme)		63,297.00	
Sale of Badges		32.00	
History Books		8.00	
Grampians books		480.00	
Calendars		264.00	
Cards		3.90	
Bus Trip to Eltham		400.00	
Camp at Licola		330.00	
Donations & Suppers		96.05	66514.77
			<u>68395.86</u>

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS 2.3.87 - 29.2.88

Subscriptions & Donations	131.60	
Naturalist Magazine	538.90	
Petty Cash	176.30	
Hire of Meeting Rooms	70.00	
Microphone, Walkie-Talkies & Tapes	280.83	
Bus Trip (deposit)	35.00	
Camp at Licola	330.00	
Conservation Expenses (Environment)	343.12	
Photocopying	8.32	
Bank Fees & Duties	35.90	
Vic. National Parks Grampians Books	495.00	
Calendars	262.50	
Mid Gippsland River Management Board	63297.00	
Gifts for speakers & Christmas breakup	47.60	
Publicity	18.00	
Library Expenses	25.00	
Rent of Post Office Box	23.17	66118.24
Balance on Hand		354.56
Cheque Account		1923.06
Investment Account		<u>68395.86</u>

Reconciled Bank Statement

Balance at 29.2.88	21783.56	
Less unrepresented cheques		
1.038234	2109.00	
2.038237	330.00	21429.00
		<u>354.56</u>

Statement presented at Annual Meeting March 25th 1988.



WALKING IN LOWER GLENELG AND MT. RICHMOND NATIONAL PARKS.

During Melbourne Cup week, the suburban based walking club to which we belong, had a week long camp in the Lower Glenelg National Park at a site called Pritchards.

The Lower Glenelg N.P. is in the far south east corner of Victoria where the Glenelg River cuts an extensive gorge through miocene limestone. The park protects about 35km. of this gorge and some 27300ha of surrounding bush and heathlands, including the Kentbruck Heath, which is noted for its wildflowers.

About 30 club members assembled on the Sunday morning and set out up stream along a marked path for an all day walk: but alas, the warm day grew hot and by the time we were about 8km from camp the temperature had reached 37 degrees celsius, half of us had lost all interest in the beautiful bush and the idyllic vistas of the river. While the mad dogs and Englishmen pressed on further, we crept back to our tents and swimming hole.

On the way we walked in the shade of brown stringy-bark (*E.ovata*) and saw many small grass-trees (*X.minor*) an occasional one of which was flowering. Much of the rest of the understorey was a mixture of flame heath (*A.conostepoides*) silver banksia (*B.marginata*) parrot-pea (*D.retorta*) with milkmaids, fringe-lilies (*Thysanotus tuberosus*), and coast stackhousia (*S.spathulata*) crammed inbetween.

The space which C.F.&L. people had cleared for the pathway provided room for running postman (*K.prostrata*), beard-orchid (*C.robertsii*) pink boronia (*B.nana*) horny cone-bush (*Isopogon ceratophyllus*), sweet apple-berry (*Billardiera cymosa*) and sun-orchids (*T.aristata*) one of which was a full metre high with a dozen large blooms.

Another day we walked in the Mt. Richmond area, a typical heathland with carpets of fairies' aprons (*U.dichotoma*) short purple-flags (*Patersonia fragilis*) Maiden hair fern (*Adiantum*) in damp spots: while pink waxflowers (*Eriostemon australasium*) *Pimelea hewardiana*, white everlastings (*H.baxteri*), blackeyed susans (*Tetralthea ciliata*) and ivy leaf violets (*Viola hederacea*) sheltered beneath totem poles (*M.decusata*), swamp paper-bark (*M.ericifolia*), scented paper-barks (*M.squarrosa*) and messmate (*E.obliqua*).

A run by car to the entrance enabled us to walk along the silver sand beach, where we saw a Pacific gull, many silver gulls, some Caspian terns, and pelicans. After a visit to the C.F.&L. display centre at Nelson, we boarded a ferry to travel to the beautiful Princess Margaret Rose caves- along the river we saw numerous cormorants and several chestnut teal, black duck and grey teal. In the caves we saw many beautiful limestone formations and in some places, accumulations of prehistoric animal remains.

The fauna around the camp were quite fearless, the kangaroos and red-necked wallabies feeding next to the tent - the foxscrounging in the rubbish bins - the brush-tailed possum foraging at the rim of the camp-fire light. We saw a sacred kingfisher catching his tea, many silvereyes and yellow-breasted robins - had to watch you did not walk on a blue wren. There were two pairs of birds we had to observe closely to distinguish between them - the first pair were blue-winged parrots and elegant parrots. The second pair were the white-browed scrub wren and the shy hylacola.



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WALKING IN LOWER GLENELG AND MT. RICHMOND NATIONAL PARKS contd.

We observed a total of 44 species of birds including a crested shrike-tit, nankeen night heron and black-eared cuckoo.

We were puzzled by one bird which sang principally at first light high up in the foliage with a sweet voice similar to a grey thrush - his song was just three syllables - wee-err-wick : the middle one was lower than the start, with the end one rising rapidly to a high pitch: the song was repeated for at least half an hour at about minute intervals. Do you recognise the singer ?

The week went quickly, we packed up on Friday, stayed with friends at Portland over night, and came home Saturday after a very enjoyable holiday.

Jim & Florence Blucher.

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AUSTRALIA WEEKEND '88.

Well, another long weekend at our comfortable school camp among the trees has come and gone. I surprised myself by arriving in Heyfield by 9.30 on a lovely morning. there I linked up with Joan from Bairnsdale and we drove in tandem toward Glenmaggie for morning tea along the lake. Lunch was taken in welcome shade beside the river at Licola, for the sun was hot on the driver's side as we drove along.

On Friday night our riverside was calm and peaceful, in contrast to the bedlam of Saturday night when the campers celebrated. Sunday morn was quiet again as a giant hangover enveloped the camps.

Being such a hot dry January the dust lay thick on the roadside vegetation until a shower washed it all clean and sparkling again. As we left on Monday morning I marvelled at the beauty of this forest road, flanked by arching gums that dangled enormous conical candlebras of the Box Mistletoe. All the way down the country alternates between these soft green flats and the harsh red rocky rises. Before the road climbs out of the Macalister Valley it passes through a remnant of rainforest jungle at the foot of a cliff, with vistas of the river sparkling over its stony bed. (An awkward place to park.)

Fossicking in my bag of samples that evening at Thompsonvale I recognised the Gipsywort, a riverside plant of the Mint family, with serrated leaves and whorls of tiny flowers. It smells something like mussels that have been open in the sun too long. You will find it in the books under Lycopus australis. Translated, Lycopus means wolf's foot, but personally I cannot see the resemblance! The very ornamental River Lomatia, Lomatia myricoides, was there too, where the river below the camp strikes the high red cliffs and is deflected. Clinging to these cliffs was a curious tufted grass, rather aromatic, with oat-like seed heads bent backwards down the stems. Looking this one up we found it was Barbwire Grass, a name which suits its knotty seeds perfectly. Its proper name is rather daunting, Cymbopogon refracta, but it translates very descriptively as "boat shaped beard bent backwards". Botany on the High Plains, as well as birds, will, I hope, be handled by other scribes. Meanwhile, thank you so much for that lovely weekend.....

Ellen Lyndon.



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REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MARCH 23rd 1988.

Nine members present. six apologies.

Letter from Bairnsdale F.N.C. re combined excursion October 8th.  
Meeting place arranged. more details later.

Duck survey. Decided that a mid-season count be arranged.

Christmas Breakup. will be at Bundilla at Caolville the property of the Ringins. Offer of a working bee prior to the date has been accepted. No date arranged for working bee.

Finance Books closed for auditing. Accounts presented for payment  
Donation Vic. Conservation Trust \$50.00, Australia Post \$23.00 (P.O.Dor)  
Bus Trip \$315.00

Correspondence. Australian Wildlife Fund re Koala stamp issue.

East Gippsland Coalition re National Parks Boundaries.

Gippsland Investment & Taxation re services.

L.V.Astronomical Society re meeting 11th April.

L.V.W.S.B. re details of Naturalist. City of Moe re Office Bearers.

West Gippsland Tree Group- copy of minutes.

C.C.V.re Political Statements , Flora & Fauna Guarantee.

Letter to be sent to Leader of Opposition re above.

"Kinberly Pursuits" re Trail Riding (W.A.)

Publications received. Geelong Naturalist, Victorian Naturalist,  
Nature Territory (N.T.Naturalist), SCAP Maroondah Group Newsletter.

Name Tags. Mrs Crane presented all material relating to the name tags.  
She was thanked for her efforts over the years in making these name  
tags for members. Mrs Norma Rees has offered to take over this duty  
in the future. Thankyou Norma.

Discussion re Annual Meeting and nominations, hoping that general  
members would have some nominations for office bearers.

The Editor announced that this would be the last year she would be  
doing the Naturalist. After 18 years I feel it is time for a change,  
new approach , new ideas etc.....

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Tarra bulga Nat.Park. Comments have been sent.

Plant and Tree list, Bird list. 5 surveys of Latrobe River sent to  
Ross Scott , Mid gippsland River Management Board.

Attend Seminar in Bairnsdale Sept.Water Resources "Planning for the  
Future".

J.Wall reported that the Landscape Committee is now known as Latrobe  
Landscape Consultative Committee now under the auspices of the  
Latrobe Regional Commission.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 20th at  
YMCA rooms MORwell at 7.30 pm.

Members interested in Club Business are welcome to attend these meetings.  
The business meetings are not exclusive, but much of the business  
cannot be discussed at general meetings (takes too much time).

Supper Roster April 22nd. Dulcie Sambell  
Beatrice Roberts.



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<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
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<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Road Cowwarr 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr.F.Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 23 2747	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Pauline Tully Waddell's Road Nicholson 3882 Ph. 051 568290	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the  
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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
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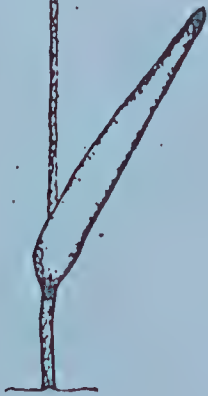
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MAY 1988  
ISSUE N<sup>o</sup>. 293



# *Zatrobe Valley Naturalist*



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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.

Meeting: Friday May 27th  
Speaker: Ross Scott "Gippsland Rivers"  
Excursion: Saturday May 28th to River areas  
Meeting Place: Traralgon in carpark behind Tyler's  
Tipping building (opp.McDonalds)  
at 9.30 am.

Bird Group.Meeting

Monday June 6th  
Morwell National Park.  
Meeting Place: M.N.P.Carpark at 10.00am.

Please note subject of talk May 27th.  
"Importance of saving our rivers"

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Warragul F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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FRIENDS OF MT WORTH PARK.

Action Days 3rd Sunday of month.  
Contact J.Brooks for details 056 231563

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Friends of MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

Meeting June 12th. at 4.00pm.  
Meeting Place: Roundabout at end of Tebb Tce.  
Speaker will talk about history of Billy's Creek.  
Spotlight walk in Billy's Creek.B.Y.O.BBQ tea.  
Contact Gail 221478 or Yvonne 222567

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A.C.F.Local Group/

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of month  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George St.Morwell.



BUGS ON SUNDEWS.

In the May 1985 issue of the Latrobe Valley Naturalist I had an article about tiny insects on Drosera binnata. I mentioned these insects to Mrs Jane Calder when she was with the Club and she suggested the insects may be retreating from the gland area to cover themselves with a substance that resists the sticky glands. So that is another thought instead of cleaning themselves.

Recently I had the opportunity to send a print copy of the slide to the Museum. Mr Walker, assistant Curator of Entomology, identified the insect as a true bug with the illustrious name of Cyrtopeltis droserae or perhaps C. russelli. He also suggested that the insects we saw were apparently immature as the adults are a dull tawny grey colour not the bright green and red of our specimens. Mr Walker also included a photostat of the relevant section from "The Insects of Australia" by CSIRO. I quote the section 'Miridae is one of the largest families in Heteroptera (true bugs with different pairs of wings)'. The sub-family Phylinae has 16 Australian species. Two south-western Pacific species of Dicyphini, Cyrtopeltis droserae and C. russelli are adapted for survival on the sticky leaves of sundew (Drosera) and suck the blood of insects trapped by these plants".

Mr Walker had no information at the Museum on the reason for the insects ability to walk over the Sundews. It probably is not known as the reference glossed over these details.

Apparently there are several types of insects that exploit the food sources afforded by the prey of carnivorous plants without being trapped themselves.

Bon Thompson.

SPIDERS.

During our visit to Eltham one of our members found a spider that I have never seen before, it was a lovely autumn brown gold colour; about 1.5 cm across its back, and its legs which were mottled red and brown were pulled in close to its body. After looking at it closely, I decided to look at the underside, carefully turning it over I was startled to see part of the abdomen was coloured jet black (shield or badge shape) with two enormous white spots (like cats eyes) evidently a warning sign to predators. I replaced the spider under the leaves. Upon referring to my books I identified the spider as belonging to the family Sparassidae (Huntsman spiders) genus Olios.  
Common Name Badge Spider.

Reference Books:- Spiders of Australia Barbara York Main  
Spiders Barbara York Main  
Australian Spiders John Child.

Peg Wall.

Have you a Club Badge? You may have noticed some members wearing this badge which has the club emblem the Flying-duck Orchid as a feature. We urge all members to obtain a badge as we had to order a considerable number and there a lots in reserve.

the Treasurer Mrs Stewart has the badges and she usually has them at general meetings. Cost \$4.00



THE ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY.

Utilising a series of colour slides, entomologist Michael Braby gave the well attended February 1988 meeting of the L.V.F.N.C. an interesting talk on the Eltham copper butterfly, Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida which is a rare sub species of the dull copper butterfly.

This uncommon small brightly coloured butterfly is endemic to Eastern and; outh Eastern Australia.

The species is currently divided into two sub species:

1. Paralucia pyrodiscus (dull Copper) which extends from Central Queensland to Eastern Victoria around Nowa Nowa, and
2. Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida (Eltham copper) which is more restrictive in distribution and geographically separated.

The main distribution between the two sub species is in the extent and variability of copper scales on the hindwings of the males. The hindwing of the male P.p.lucida has a well defined bright patch of copper scales which is consistent from specimen to specimen whereas the hindwing of the male P.pyrodiscus has an ill defined central copper area which varies from specimen to specimen. However, further study is required to clarify the taxonomy of the sub species.

Both sub species occur in very localised closed colonies. The butterfly being highly sedentary, remains in close proximity to the only known host plant Bursaria spinosa (sweet bursaria).

The known distribution of the eltham copper butterfly is limited to: KIATA, approximately 10 km West of Nhill where several large stable colonies exist in a bushland reserve.

CASTLEMAINE where only one colony is known to exist in a reserve in the district.

ELTHAM - GREENSBROUGH where eight colonies are known to exist but all are at serious risk of extinction because of urbanisation.

All colonies of P.p.lucida occur in box-stringybark open forest (Eltham-Greensbrough) or box-yellow gum woodland (Castlemaine Kiata) in which the understory is open and grassy. All sites are well drained and near Melbourne, most colonies occur in elevated areas, usually on relatively dry northern aspects of gentle slopes.

Eggs of Paralucia p.lucida are mainly deposited on the host plant, Bursaria spinosa, singly or in small groups on the under surface of leaves and on the bark, usually near the ground. On odd occasions eggs may be laid on the upper surface of leaves and stem or on leaf litter near the base of the host plant.

The larvae feed at night in the foliage of sweet bursaria and appear to have a specific, probably obligatory association with two species of ants belonging to the genus Notoncus emeryi. the ants which attend P.p.lucida in the Eltham district is N.enormis Szabo. At Kiata the ant is a different but closely related species N.ectatommoides. At the base of the host plant the ants construct a small nest in which the larvae shelter gregariously during the day, the larvae being invariably found resting in the main root. The number of larvae occurring on a given plant varies between one and twenty, but usually five to ten are found.



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THE ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY

contd..

Little is known about the ant-larvae relationship. It is assumed both species benefit from the relationship with the ants eating a chemical or sugar secretion from posterior segments of the larvae. In return the ants probably provide the protection of the nest and assist in the movement of larvae between the nest and foliage.

Larvae generally pupate in the ants nest. The pupae being attached to the main root or stem of the host plant.

The adult flight period at Eltham is from early December to late March with the greatest activity during late December. In hotter drier areas the flight period may commence in November. Butterfly activity appears to be limited to sunny, usually warm periods, or if cloudy to very warm or hot conditions. Adults usually fly low to the ground in close proximity to the host plant and settle frequently on grass, leaf litter, bare ground and small shrubs. As the butterfly usually settles with the wings closed or near closed the camouflaged underside of the wings make it difficult to detect the butterfly against the background litter.

The Eltham copper has one generation per year if it over winters in the larval stage and the adults appear mainly during the summer.

The larvae appear to be restricted to a low growing form of *Bursaria spinosa*. The effect of foliage consumption (grazing) by the larvae and the possible impact of ant colonies on the root system may restrict the growth of host plants. Larvae are capable of completely defoliating small bursarias. Feeding activity of larvae is confined to the milder weather of late summer, autumn and spring. They do not feed on cold, wet nights. During winter when the larvae are largely inactive in the ant's nests the defoliated bursarias produce vigorous new growth and by spring when the larvae become active again the bursarias are completely regenerated. It is presumed small plants are preferred because of the reduced travelling between foliage and nest.

The Eltham-Greensborough colonies are under serious threat because of the subdivision of land: council activity in fire prevention and slashing and weed invasion.

An active community fund raising committee has been established to raise the large sum of money (approx. One million dollars) needed to buy back subdivided land at Eltham which provides habitat for the two major colonies of Eltham copper butterfly. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible and may be sent to Victorian Conservation Trust (Butterfly appeal)  
c/o/ANZ Bank 950 Main Rd. Eltham 3095.

The attentive audience thanked Michael for enlightening us after his somewhat traumatic car trip from Eltham. (the joys of motoring)

John Mewett.

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A donation has been sent from the Club to the Butterfly appeal. The surplus money from the bus trip made the donation possible.

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EXCURSION TO ELTHAM AND BANYULE FLATS RESERVE 27/2/88.

In ideal weather a coachload of Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists and friends travelled to Eltham in the hope of sighting the elusive Eltham Copper Butterfly Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida "shining fire disc of light".

We enjoyed morning tea at Wingrove Park, on the now dry Diamond Creek, Eltham with its beautiful back ground of gums which included Manna Gum Eucalyptus viminalis and River Red Gum E.camaldulensis.

At this point Elaine Braby who with other interested local people was to lead the morning's activities, addressed our reclining group on the battle to save the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Birds sighted in the park included: Rainbow Lorikeet, Galah, Spotted Pardalote, Grey thrush, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Silvereye, Kookaburra, domestic Pigeon, Magpie, Mudlark.

The morning excursion took in the nearby subdivided remnant bush land at Diosma Rd. Eltham, which is the major local habitat of the butterfly. The enthusiastic group with a lot of local assistance failed to find the butterfly but did find eggs and larvae on leaves of the localised dwarf form of Sweet Bursaria Bursaria spinosa which is the only known foodplant of the butterfly larvae.

Bart Sterkenburg was caught photographing butterflies out of season and faces a heavy penalty which is yet to be decided!

Just to tease the group there were plenty of butterflies flitting about but they were all the wrong sorts. Actually they were very brave butterflies facing up to such an invasion of their habitat. Perhaps the eltham Copper is more timid.

Some of the trees and plants growing in this bushland included the obvious Bursaria spinosa, Red Box, Eucalypt polyanthemus, Yellow Box E.melliadora, Red Stringybark Eucalyptus macrorhyncha, Cherry Ballart Exocarpus cupressiformis, Clematis microphylla, Dianella revoluta, Slender Dodder-Laurel Cassytha glabella, Cassinia longifolia, Billardiera scandens and Acacia genistifolia.

A relaxed lunchbreak was taken in the picnic area of Banyule Flats Reserve. Doug Western of the Warringal Conservation Society who led the afternoon excursion in the Reserve gave the group information on the history of the area. In 1970 the Warringal Conservation Society was able to save the wetlands of the reserve from being turned into five playing fields. In a compromise only two playing fields were constructed. Doug indicated points of interest and provided a few anecdotes as we strolled through this delightful area made more so by the glorious weather. The only thing approaching strenuous activity this afternoon was a rather laid back cricket match nearby.

Our birdos had a good workout observing the birds in and over the wetlands, especially around the Billabong. Six stately Australian Pelicans stole the show with their fine airborne display; the RAAF has nothing to match these magnificent birds.



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EXCURSION TO ELTHAM AND BANYULE FLATS RESERVE contd...

Bird List for Banyule Flats Reserve 27.2.88

Goldfinch, Starling, White-faced Honeyeater, Silvereye, White-plumed Honeyeater, Common Myna, Australian Pelican, Thornbill, White-backed Magpie, White Ibis, Brown Goshawk, Blackbird, Masked Lapwing, Black-fronted Dotterel, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Large Black Cormorant, Mudlark, White-eyed Duck, Chestnut Teal, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Coot, Black Swan.

After saying goodbye to our leader Doug Western and the good people of the Warringal conservation society and Montmorency Field Naturalist club who accompanied us for the day our sun tanned and gratified group made their way back to the Latrobe Valley where the coach shed them in dribs and drabs along the length of the Valley

John Mewett.

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A 'BIRDO DAY' WITH A DIFFERENCE.

On Monday May 4th we arrived at the Blue rock Dam to meet Mrs Norma Rees our leader. She had arranged with Mr Colin Price the Ranger, a surprise visit to the Control Room of the Dam.

We assembled at the wall of the dam. Colin then took us to the control station where we viewed the Turbine and various pumps plus their controls. In a small room we saw a panel showing the layout of the various outlet regulating valves and pumping equipment. From this point we proceeded to the tunnel that was originally the diversion and now carries the 1600mm Main Pipe from the Intake Tower to the Pumping Station.

We all walked to the end of the tunnel which was 283 metres long and ends beyond the Intake tower under the Lake.

At the conclusion of this tour we thanked Colin. Norma then led us to the picnic spot for lunch and we spent the afternoon bird watching.

Thanks Norma for a lovely surprise 'Birdo Day'.

Jim Wall.

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BIRD INTEREST NOTES.

On 23.3.85, at about 8.30 am I saw a Black-shouldered Kite hovering. A quarter-hour later it was sitting on a post devouring its prey; then it remained there, apparently feeling sated.

A further quarter hour later it was still there; but, to my amazement, with a Willy Wagtail flying round it and briefly sitting on the fence to either side at perhaps 10 feet, or even less, distance from it, the Kite seeming to take no notice.

Was the Wagtail seeking flies attracted by the Kite's prey - or for what reason was it in such close association with a bird that would be expected to be its potential enemy?

Honor Crane.

---

REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD APRIL 20th 1988.

Eight members present.

Report on Duck Survey- There were far less "target ducks" seen and the normal pattern of birds was disturbed.

Appointment of P.Rayment and M.Marschalek ratified officially.

Details of May excursion arranged.

Finance- Balance \$1242.11. Accounts for payment.  
Contact Stationery \$117.18 Orchid Books \$166.50 Postage \$70.00  
Vic.Nat.Parks books \$80.00 Hall Hire 3 months \$30.00 Dymo Machine  
Deposit Bus trip. \$35.00

Correspondence. Burrendong Arboreteum Association requesting support  
Jeff Kannett(Leader of Opposition) re Flora & Fauna Guarantee Bill.  
Bairnsdale F.N.C. re joint excursion 8th October  
Minutes C.C.V. meeting - Draft Fire Policy and Roadside Reserves.  
Friends of Morwell National Park Newsletter  
City of Maryborough re "Aboriginal Heritage Experience" tour.  
National Library re films and charges.  
Vic. Nat.Parks Association re books. West Gippsland trees group re  
minutes. Australian Democrats re Nuclear Weapons (political)  
Brochure from Dept.Water Resources re Workshop in May.  
Publications received - N.E.Naturalist (Tas) Northern Territory  
Naturalist SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter.

Letters of thanks to M.Braby P.Noonan.  
Bus Trip details June 24th. to Schools Nursery cost \$10.00  
please give names to M.Marschalek at next meeting.  
leave t'gon 8am. Morwell 8.15 . Moe 8.30 am.

Mr Rod Incoll has indicated he wishes to talk to us re fire practices  
He will be invited to address the business meeting in May.

Conservation Co-ordinator. Report on seminar "Planning for the Future"  
The next business meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th May at  
YMCA Rooms Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster May 27th Jessie Burns Dorothy Farrow

Please Note that ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. You will be  
deemed to be unfinancial if fees are not paid before June which is  
3 months after they are really due. Naturalist cannot be sent to  
unfinancial members. It would be appreciated if you could check if  
you have paid or not.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm.on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F.Hanley 9Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon.Treasurer

Mrs A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825.

NATURALIST \$8.00

FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$ 10.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
Members of all Clubs and should be addressed to

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JUNE 1988

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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.

Meeting: Friday June 24th  
Speaker: Mr Ken Harris.  
Grampians and the Flinders Ranges  
Excursion: Saturday June 25th  
Morwell National Park.  
Meeting Place: M.N.P. Carpark at 10.00 am  
More details listed on Page 1.

Bird Group.

Meeting: Monday July 4th  
Meeting Place: Crinigan Road Reserve at 10.00am  
Will visit Hazelwood PONDage later.  
Leader: Eric Lubcke

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WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK.

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.  
Contact J.Brooks for details 056 231563

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FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

Meeting Sunday July 10th. Foster's Gully picnic area at 10.00am  
Thin pines and remove regrowth by hand or slash.

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A.C.F.Local Group.

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of month  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George St.Morwell.

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AN EXPERIENCE WITH A WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER.

On Sunday ,6th December 1987 I was dawdling along at the end of a group of people who were about half way on a walk from Mount St. Gwinear Car Park to Mount Erica Car Park when a White-eared Honey-eater provided some novel entertainment.

Pam Petschack, wearing a brown and white woollen hat , was walking approximately 10 metres in front of me when the honeyeater alighted on her hat and proceeded to pluck white wool from it, ignoring the brown wool. I informed a rather nonplussed Pam, who had stopped, of what the bird was about. Neither my voice or my walking up to Pam deterred the bird in its industrious pursuit of wool.

The only diversion was when it checked out my head for nesting material or food, fortunately it found neither and returned to its attack on Pam's hat with occasional flits to a nearby tree.

Another White-eared Honeyeater paid close attention to proceedings, but took no part in activities. We presumed the active party was the female and the inactive bird was the male ( so different to the human condition, or is it?). We tired of the activity first and moved off leaving Pam's assailant with a beak full of wool.

It was somewhat chastening to find that according to Neville Bayley's " WHAT BIRD IS THAT " this apparently unusual incident is not so unusual at all during breeding season.

John Mewett.

---

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER.

" Perhaps I told you of two interesting nests we found this year- a grey thrush's in a mailbox, and a swallow's nest on top of a man's felt hat. It was quite delightful to find both contain eggs again this spring, so they have continued with their unusual nesting sites.

Dorothy Marslett.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS. HAVE YOU PAID YOURS? If not it would be appreciated if the Treasurer received your remittance without further delay. Any unfinancial members will receive a notice in this issue of L.V. Naturalist. We allow 3 months for people to become financial. We are not permitted to post our publication to unfinancial members.

---

Details of June Excursion. It is anticipated that we walk Foster's Gully in the morning where it is hoped we may see Lyrebirds and Tungi. After lunch in the carpark we hope to visit the Billy's Creek area, which is in the latest additions to the Park.

If you cannot attend in the morning think about coming for the afternoon activities.

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A WORLD BENEATH YOUR FEET.Preliminary Information.

Jack Lewis of Inverloch assembled a high quality scientific collection of sea shells in the 1970's. His Victorian cabinet is one of the finest private collections in the State.

After his death in 1977 the collection was purchased as a tourist attraction for the region and is run by a Shell Trust of district residents.

Trust members, particularly Rex and Joy Bowman, have upgraded the collection and added many highly prized specimens. Don't leave without seeing the golden Cowrie and the Star of the Sea Cone!

The Molluscs(seashells) are one of the largest and most widely distributed major groups of the Animal Kingdom. Experts estimate that there are some 100,000 different species with countless billions individuals in many specific groups. They range in size from the gigantic Clam Shells of the Great Barrier Reef down to the unseen microscopic specimens on our sea shores.

Seashells live, grow, feed and reproduce as other animals but after their own particular fashion which often varies between major groups. By far the most predominant classes are the Gastropods, the coiled shells like Cowries and Cones, and the Bivalves, the 2 piece shells like Oysters and Mussels.

Andersons Inlet is an ideal collecting area - if you know where to look and don't expect miracles. Of the 3,000 or so victorian species, I'd say, almost 70% of them can be collected within 30kms from where we now stand .(INverloch)

Special thanks to the Shell House workers for letting us examine their collection, and to the Principal and staff of Korumburra High for the use of their facilities.

Peter Noonan.

Peter was the leader for the March excursion to Inverloch etc. The Inverloch Environmental Centre has an excellent display and facilities at their premises at Inverloch.

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MICROSHELL EXCURSION INVERLOCH KORUMBURRA 26th MARCH 1988.

Members met on a very hot morning at the Information Centre at INverloch for this fascinating 3 stage excursion arranged for us by Peter Noonan of Korumburra. He titled the excursion

A WORLD BENEATH YOUR FEET.

Stage 1. was an inspection of the Shell House in the Information Centre and a talk on shells by Peter in which he explained to us the classification of shells and shell collectors (Malachologists and Conchologists). He showed us a variety of shells found locally from some quite large and easily seen along the seashore to those in a circular plastic container 2.5cm diameter by 1cm deep where there were some 500 microshells!

Stage 2. The collecting of micro-shells from Anderson's Inlet. This was a gentle walk to the shore above Inverloch Jetty where Peter showed us the special sand where microshells are found.

contd...pp 3



MICROSHELL EXCURSION. ...contd...

This is the sand, dry in appearance, which is left at the high tide line on the gently sloping beach, and the sand lighter in colour where it had dropped in the valleys of the ripple marks left as the tide receded. He showed us how to collect small quantities of these sands which he suggested we dry in the sun over lunchtime.

We then strolled back along the beach to collect our lunches which we ate in the shade of the Coastal Tea-tree at the top of the first dune. This dune has been retained by a barrier of bluestone spalls placed over a "plastic" carpet to halt the erosion which had occurred over the last 14 years. From our elevated position we were able to view the idyllic scene before us...golden sand, blue water, moored fishing vessels beyond the sand bars of Anderson's Inlet with Point Smythe and Venus Bay as the background beneath a clear blue sky. In the trees behind us Grey Fantails were busy and on the sand bars were both Silver and Pacific Gulls, some Pied Cormorants and one lone White-faced Heron.

Stage 3. The examination of sifted shell fragments at Korumburra High School. We drove to Korumburra via the Kongwak Road with a stop at the Lookout for wide views over the surrounding countryside. Graeme Rowe told us of the geological history of the area we could see surrounding the uplifted horst block where the lookout is situated. To the South-east Anderson's Inlet with the dunes between the inlet and the sea formed the border of the coastal plains which stretched below us crossed the Powlett River. Beyond Kilcunda to the South-west Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island was visible, while to the North the Strzeleckis merged into the distant haze.

At Korumburra High School Peter had set up sufficient student microscopes for us to find our microshells. He first demonstrated how to sieve the sand, separate the shells with a probe, then lift each individual shell with a shaped and moistened match stick on to the glass dish. He then let us try.

Many were the cries of delight as we discovered the shining beauty of minute shells and tiny forams (mercedes logo or coiled shape). Finally Peter visited each microscope in turn to identify our finds and discover who had won the competition for 8 shells. This honour was won by Bon and Olly with 11 shells one of which had an unusual anticlockwise twist.

Peter was then thanked for organising the day plus his informative and humorous words on shells. After a refreshing cuppa beneath a tree in the schoolground, all departed for home after a most interesting excursion.

Eulalie Brewster.

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SEXUAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE FLORAL KIND.Film shown March 25th 1988.

Flowers are designed for sex, in fact they are the sex organs of the plant. The female portion is the stigma which leads to the ovary and the male organs are the anthers which carry the pollen. The pollen of each species of plant is as individual as human fingerprints. Self-fertilization can take place sometimes; but cross pollination is necessary or preferred in most cases. The methods used to bridge the gap between plants can be most fascinating.

The photography of the cloud of grass pollen dispersed by the wind was very descriptive. With millions of plants crowding for the services of insects, it pays to advertise with shapes, patterns, colours and indications of where exactly to go. Flowers pay for service usually with nectar. The Australian Tongue Orchid was one of the first plants to be identified as having a sexual attraction for insects and the first botanist to understand it did not dare to publish the findings. An Australian speciality is the Hammer Orchid with a shape brilliant for copulation with an insect. The female wasp is wingless and climbs up a plant and releases a perfume irresistible to the males who have wings to enable them to find the females. The tongue of the Hammer Orchid is the shape of the female wasp and the flower even provides a similar perfume. The orchid blooms while the male wasps are emerging and before the females emerge. The tongue of the orchid hammers back and forth as the insect treats it as a female wasp and in the process the pollinea is attached to the insect. The pollinea is removed when the insect visits the next orchid. the wasp is not fooled for more than a second if the female wasps are about. so flowering time is crucial.

In the rainforests of both America, where there is continuous mist, many species of orchids grow. Each species is pollinated by only one species of insect. The Bucket Orchid is pollinated by a beautiful iridescent green bee. the orchid opens and drips fluid into the bucket and exudes a scent to attract these bees. The bees need the waxy substance, which they scrape off the flower, as an aphrodisiac. When a bee falls into the bucket it discovers a tunnel to escape. In the tunnel it receives the pollinea and at the exit it is held in a vicelike grip until the pollen sac glue dries. When the bee arrives at another flower the pollen is removed by another device. If the bees disappeared or become scarce the orchid would disappear as it has no other means of pollination.

Insects have to beware as they are being used and sometimes a casual encounter can lead to death. Some insects will cheat by entering at the top of a bell and bypassing the system. Plants go to amazing strategies to overcome this problem, e.g. Teasle has a water moat. African Waterlilies are harmless to insects on the second day; but on the first day there is an awful need to kill. The pool in the centre of the flower looks like nectar but is poison and once in the hoverfly cannot get out as the smooth stamens are overhanging - so the insect finally dies. During the night the flower closes up and gets the pollen off the fly. Flowers evolve certain characteristics for special insects, e.g. night flowers for moths. Some flowers release pollen when stimulated by ultrasonic vibrations; others, like Digitalis, lure the bees to the bottom flowers first. Many desert plants rely on ants and so grow near the ground, the stems making trails for the ants. In these cases the flowers do not need to be colorful.

contd...pp 5



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SEXUAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE FLORAL KIND. contd..

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In the freezing arctic regions flowers abound in season. The Arctic Rose forms a parabolic shape with its white petals so that the reflection of the sun's rays concentrate in the centre of the flower. thus visiting insects are warmed to give them the energy to fly to the next flower. These flowers have rotating stems which allow them to track the sun for the whole 24 hours of sunlight.

An Arum Lily on an uninhabited island of Sardinia in the Mediterranean has a dark column with many slippery passages leading down to the base of the flower from whence there is a real stench not a perfume. In the centre of the flower is a ring of stiff hairs to prevent the insect from escaping once inside. Of course this flower is pollinated by blowflies and they go deeper and deeper into the flower past both the male and female organs. So brilliant is the deception that the flies even lay their eggs in the flower; but as there is no food for the emerging larvae they just die. the trapped flies will fertilise the female flowers if they are carrying pollen on their bodies. On the second day the stamens burst open and shower the flies with pollen. By the third day the surviving flies can escape as the guard-hairs have now withered.

Not only insects are involved in pollination. Pigmy Possums eat pollen and are one of a select band of pollinating mammals. Some plants have flowers near the ground, hanging downwards, to make life easier for the pollinating mice. The Australian Honey Possum has adapted to a honey or nectar diet. Some eucalypts have copious nectar and the flowers hang down over other branches, Birds are attracted by heavy supplies of nectar and hairy stems help as a perch, e.g. Kangaroo Paws. Humming Birds in Central America have a prodigious appetite for nectar. The photography in this sector was beautiful.

Some plants grow under water. The Ribbon Weed has separate male and female plants. Female flowers grow up until they rest on the surface of the water while the male flowers consist of a flask-like organ on the bottom of the pond or stream. the flask bursts to release tiny sacs or male flowers to rise to the surface; but to evade the fish which eat the flowers the sacs are released at night. At the surface the male flowers open to expose the stamens and they float until they chance on the female flowers and then they unite. The fish help in dispersing the seeds.

Not only was the commentary of the film very interesting but the photography was exceptional. It must have taken hours to get the pollinator and the flower co-operating to provide the sequences of the most examples of pollination in the film.

Bon Thompson.

This excellent film was recommended to us by Jane Calder when she spoke to the Club last year. I am sure we would never have known of it but for her.

Ed.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD May 25th 1988.

8 members were present. The meeting was addressed by Rod Incoll from S.E.C.V. re our thoughts on burning off practices. He presented a proposition where the Club could help in survey of specific areas in the future.

Decision on covers for Naturalist, we are to accept L.V. Printers price.

Bus trip to Werribee in November. Decided to ask for response at general meeting as this would be a rather long day in spite of the fact that we would visit one of the best bird areas in the State.

Some members expressed concern at the length of some of the club outings. Decided to ask at meeting if people would be willing to take others in their cars on outings. P. Rayment to promote a list and await response.

Finance. Cheque A/a \$915.00 we have received grant of \$700.00 for environment expenses. Accounts for payment. Stationery \$48.00 Lat. Library \$6.00, Petty Cash \$50/00, J. Purbrick \$10.00 Australia Post to register Naturalist \$40.00

Correspondence. A.C.F. re Raffle, Art Resource Collective re Art and Environment August 3rd. Australia Post re Registration.

Bairnsdale F.N.C. re P.O. Box. C.C.V. re meeting 20th June.

Letter from student re conservation (Mrs Thompson to reply)

Australian Democrats re Ozone Depleting substances, C.F.L. Sid

Cowling re meeting and hospitality, H. Dacy re Orchid books,

Entomological society of Victoria re Special Award, F.O.M.H.P. Newsletter, Latrobe Regional Commission re Steps Ahead publication.

L.V.W.S.B. re NATURALIST, Shire of Morwell re Office Bearers,

Ministry of Planning & Environment re Grant received.

Victorian Roadsides Committee re awards, Burnley Gardens students request for information, Victorian Conservation Trust 1987 Report,

D.S.I.R. (N.Z.) re Naturalist exchange. Students G.I.A.E. re use of

waterways research, West Gippsland Tree Group minutes of meeting,

SCAP Maroondah Group Newsletter, Vic. Naturalist, C.C.V. Environment

Victoria, Report of /Rehabilitation Consultative Committee,

Advice from the "Centre" Sale re bus trips. C.F.L. Marragul require

bird list, Card from Bluchers heading West, details of Documentary about Lyrebirds.

Conservation Co-ordinator

Comment on draft of R.C.A. Roadside Management Guide. also comment on

National Parks Bill passed in Parliament comparing alterations to

L.C.C. recommendations. Comments on C.C.V. draft policy to N. Grigg.

Provided list of plants recorded by Club Members for management

plans for Urella Reserve at Trafalgar. Investigated softwood plant-

ings as requested by N. Grigg. Investigated intentions of Shire re

exotic trees at Chester Park. Draft Submission on Latrobe Regional

Environmental Policy and Land Use Policy available for comment by

meeting.

Represented Club at meeting with Narracan Shire on revegetation on

section Moe/Willow Grove road reserves. present at request of Dept.

Planning & Environment.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 22nd at

T.M.C.A. Rooms Morwell at 7.30 pm. Any interested members are welcome

to attend these meetings when all aspects of Club business is disc-

ussed. This is a very important aspect of the Club.

Supper Roster June 24th

June Lubcke BonThompson.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G. Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O. Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D. C. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon. Treasurer      Mrs A. Stewart  
P.O. Box 169  
Newborough 3825.

NATURALIST \$8.00      FAMILY \$12.00      SINGLE MEMBER \$ 10.00

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JULY 1988

ISSUE No. 295

# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.ING.

Meeting:

Speaker:

Excursion:

Meeting Place:

Friday July 22nd

Mr Neville Penrose from CFL.

"Salinity"

Saturday July 23rd to Lake

Wellington Hinterland.

Lake Guthridge Sale near Police

Station at 10.00 am.

Bring wet weather gear , morning tea and lunch.

Bird Group:

Meeting:

Meeting Place:

Monday 1st august to Wirilda

Tyers River bridge Yallourn North

Tyers road at 10.00 am.

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WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Mount Worth Park

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.

Contact J.Brooks for details

056 231563

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

Sunday August 14th to Warrandyte State Park guided by friends of the  
Park.

Meet at Morwell Railway Station 8.00 am for car pooling.

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A.C.F.Local group.

2nd Wednesday of the month

Migrant Resource Centre

George St. Morwell.



POSSESSION AND TRADE OF WILDLIFE IN VICTORIA.

Talk by Sid Cowling 24/4/88

Sid presented a very interesting and informative talk on a topic which he has spent a lot of his working life investigating. Sid has worked for 20 years in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department as Assistant Director of operations. When the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands was formed, Sid became the Regional Manager of the Carragul Region, until this region was combined with the Traralgon Region in early 1987. Since that time Sid has been in Melbourne conducting an enquiry into the possession and trade in wildlife. He finished his study in October 1987 and was hoping the Minister would read the report and release it to the public by early 1988. Unfortunately the Minister only received the report in April and this meant that Sid could only talk about the issues raised, not about the reports recommendations. The report deals with possession and trade for commerce and recreation and excludes for scientific purposes. Of concern are private zoos, Taxidermists and aviculturists.

In Victoria, wildlife is defined as any native wildlife to Australia, its Territories or Territorial waters. This also includes introduced animals such as deer, pheasant and introduced quail. Activities such as deer hunting, bird watching, etc. was formally acknowledged in Victoria in 1975. Each State has different laws relating to wildlife and this causes problems with importing of animals from other States under section 92 of the Constitution. It is difficult to determine if animals were illegally obtained in the first place before being imported.

There are between 10-12 thousand licences in Victoria and this means there are very large quantities of animals involved. A study conducted 10 years ago over a five year period, into legally imported native birds revealed an average of 113,000 birds per year were imported while 8,000 were exported. This left a long term nett import of over 100,000 birds, as trapping of birds for market was illegal in this State. Concern for what was happening to these birds resulted in the conclusion that people buying these birds did not know how to look after them and when they died, they went out and purchased more. The situation is different for skilled collectors as they are much more responsible towards their stock. This creates the situation where it is difficult to discriminate between who will be a good collector and who will not be a good collector.

The existing laws are too complex and even the D/CFL have difficulty in fully understanding them. Victoria, N.S.W. and S.A. are trying to simplify the laws to make it easier to administer and to put the onus onto people in the game, through increased penalties and incentives to do it properly.

Private zoos are another area of concern, as most people think keeping animals is very easy and cheap, and people will pay lots of money to come and look at them. The D/CFL recommends to people wishing to set up a private zoo, that they look at the Healesville sanctuary and its costs for food, labour, veterinary care and providing enclosures that are both good for the animals and good to look at. This usually frightens a lot of people off the idea. There are lots of small zoos and only a small number of people who will visit zoos, hence income from gate takings does not cover costs. The large zoos such as Melbourne, Sydney and Healesville rely on government grants and sponsorship arrangements.



POSSESSION AND TRADE OF WILDLIFE IN VICTORIA. contd...

At this point in the talk, Sid decided it was best to show us some slides that would help to describe and illustrate the topic.

The first slide was of the Leadbeaters POssum. This raised the issue of captive breeding of endangered species. The most outstanding success in captive breeding have been by people acting in a private capacity. Such a person is Des Hackett ? in Blackburn who has bred many species of possum and gliders which have been released into the wild in D/CFL projects. This highlights that experts are born, not often made and do not always work for organisations concerned with wildlife. Unfortunately people say "if Des can do it, why can't I?" How do you tell if one person is going to be better than another ? It is relatively easy to take a chance with a non threatened species, but entirely different to let people with an unknown track record to have a few individual animals of an endangered species.

The second slide was of the Little Falcon. In North America the recolonisation in the North East by the Peregrine Falcon will only succeed by using the experiences of the Falconers. IN Australia there are only a few Falconers, but they are not officially recognised by the Government.

The third slide was of the Lord Howe Island Wood Hen. Successful breeding of the species is due to the reduction in numbers of introduced animals such as pigs and rats on the island. The most successful captive breeding programs are those that take place at the site of the normal range of the species.

The fourth slide was of a Deer. When deer farming was permitted in the 70's the deer farmers became upset at the requirement that they must obtain a licence to possess and trade deer. They considered the deer should be treated the same as cattle and sheep. At that time the Government felt that an exotic animal which was not extensively established anywhere in the State, without some minimum fencing standards to lessen the chances of escapes. Of the few escapes that did occur they were caused by cut fences or opened gates by people other than the deer farmers. The State Government has relaxed the standards as deer farmers have proven to be very possessive about their expensive stock.

The fifth slide was of a Koala. Most people accept that large zoos are going to look after Koalas in captivity, but are not so sure about the ability of small zoos. Some private zoos in Victoria have Koalas but they occur naturally and these zoos are not permitted to fence in these Koalas, to stop them leaving.

The sixth slide was of a small enclosure exposed to the weather, in Tasmania. It is impossible to legislate the minimum space requirements for birds. If the animal enclosures appear to be poorly designed for the animals, people will not return and will most likely tell their friends not to visit that zoo.

The next three slides were of a Tiger swimming and walking. Zoos provide an excellent opportunity to display animals which you would not normally see and also provides a means to bring the plight of animals to the public attention. The Pandas are an excellent example. Zoos should be integrated into wildlife conservation schemes. If the animals are presented to the public in enclosures similar to the animals natural environment, people will return to experience the joy of seeing the animal in its own habitat.



POSSESSION AND TRADE OF WILDLIFE IN VICTORIA. contd..

The next three slides were of the White Dolphin. Marine mammals fascinate most people and there is considerable opinion about whether they should be kept in captivity or not. In Victoria it is now illegal to possess whales or dolphins.

A very popular exhibit is the type which allows the animals to be viewed from the side or underneath. These types also give scientists the opportunity to study animal behaviour.

The next two slides were of horses. Captive breeding provided the means to genetically alter a species. Some decades ago an attempt was made to breed a more primitive horse by a series of back cross breeding exercises. Some people suggest horses are wildlife and should be fostered as they are part of our heritage, while others say they are nasty exotics and should be removed.

The next slide was of the Scarlet Ibis. Their food (small red crabs) is what gives them their colour. Many attempts have been made to breed these birds but only one private individual has successfully bred them with the correct colour.

The next slide was of an indoor exhibit in Frankfurt. these exhibits are popular.

The next slide was of the old type of concrete and bars enclosure. In Eastern Europe, if a zoo wishes to build a new enclosure, the staff have to provide 30% of the materials cost from their wages and also build it in their own time. It should be noted that some of these zoos are very successful in captive breeding. Zoos are trying to operate on captive breeding stock rather than rely on taking animals from the wild.

Eagle Owls were the next feature. A small private zoo in Belgium which specialises in water fowl, birds of prey and sea birds is successfully breeding Eagle Owls and releasing them into the wild. This zoo traps all the sea birds it need in summer and releases them in the winter, to avoid caring for them in the winter months. This zoo in 1978, had 278,000 visitors which is the same as for the Melbourne zoo. Schools use this zoo as it has some of the last remaining salt marshes in Belgium.

Another slide showed a new type of enclosure which caters for educational requirements. It showed a TV screen at the top of the exhibit and a bee hive at the rear of the exhibit. A TV camera was placed inside the hive and its picture was displayed on the screen.

The next few slides showed how not to present animals. One of them showed how the enclosures habitat looked very false, due to artificial feeding arrangements and trees protected by cages and pipes around them.

The last slide was of a breeding enclosure for five species of Penguin at the San Diego Sea World. the zoo sent research scientists to Antarctica for two years to study the Penguins. When they returned they designed a freezer which included a swimming pool and a pebble beach. This recreated the natural environment and resulted in a successful breeding program. This zoo also has a shark enclosure which has a 15 feet high by 40 ft long glass wall from which the public views the sharks.

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POSSESSION AND TRADE OF WILDLIFE IN VICTORIA. contd...

Sid then asked if we had any questions we would like answered. How were the Lyrebirds introduced into Tasmania?

In 1928 a wealthy person in Victoria thought that Lyrebirds on the mainland were under threat of becoming extinct due to foxes, and arranged for some Lyrebirds to be exported to Tasmania. Of the three release sites chosen only one was successful, and these birds are still managing to survive and do not look as though they spread from the release site.

Native birds and the black market?

Export would reduce the black market, but it would still result in the death of young birds as a high mortality rate is unavoidable. It would be politically unpopular and non target species would slip into the trade. The bulk of the birds trapped are for internal trade not export and reptiles are a bigger problem than birds. If the internal trade could be cleaned up, it would have the greatest impact on protecting the natural environment.

Are there any Pheasants left in Victoria?

Probably not on the mainland but there are substantial populations on the islands. The common Chinese Ring-neck Pheasant release in Victoria failed due to lack of feed or cover from predators.

After this Sid was thanked for his most enlightening talk with applause from all present and was handed a small gift from the Club.

Neil Grigg.

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SILVER FLAKES.

On a wet day recently we walked down the track to visit the 'Ada Tree'. We noticed in the distance what appeared to be silver flakes floating on the top of a puddle of water - on closer inspection the flakes turned out to be a small moth. The upper wings were satiny white, patterned with strong gold coloured geometric lines; the lower wings were just white, no markings. The body was white and furry.

Referring to books we found the moth belonged to the family Geometridae, genus Thaliana sp.

reference books Australian Moths - I.F.B. Common

Moths of Australia - Bernard D'Abrera.

Jim Wall.

---

Are readers aware that the Club has a history published in a small booklet. It was compiled by Mrs E. Lyndon of Leongatha a long time friend and member of L.V.F.N.C. This booklet outlines the first 25 years of the Club and is interesting reading. Copies may be obtained from the Treasurer at general meetings.

Also available to members is the Club Badge, you may have seen some of us wearing the badge at meetings. The badge is also available from the Treasurer at a cost of \$4.00.



It has been reported at meetings that the editor of the Naturalist wishes to relinquish the position. We hope that there will be some person who can possibly fill this position. Perhaps a small run down on the people who help to bring out the Naturalist might help. The editor receives all material for publication. Is responsible for the layout of pages, typing stencils required.

The printer (Mr Ringin) receives stencils and prints the required number of copies on duplicator. The Club owns the duplicator.

Assembling and postage is attended to by Mrs Jessie Burns. She has willingly done this task for several years.

Meanwhile the back covers have had addresses written on them by Mrs Lubcke. She is always at least one month ahead with these. Mrs Lubcke also keeps an eye on the unfinancial members as she is provided with lists by the treasurer as people pay their subscriptions.

The editor would be pleased to hear from anyone who thinks they could help with the editing of the Naturalist. She has indicated that she will no longer continue in the position after the Annual Meeting.

If we do not have an editor we do not have a Naturalist.

The rest of the page is blank as there is a severe shortage of small articles which would suitably fit the space. Could some of the readers help to provide some material please.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 22nd 1988.

Philip Rayment will continue with a list of people who wish transport or who could offer transport for excursions.

The Secretary will be absent until early October, contact Assistant Secretary Marilyn Marschalek 271910 after 6.00pm if necessary.

Details for July excursion finalised.

Finance Bank Balance \$908.40.

Accounts : VNPA (books) \$43.59, Conservation a/c \$219.80

Printing \$6.80 Photocopy \$8.48.

Correspondence: VNPA re publications, ACF re conference in Sydney 7-9 October. Australia Post re approval of L.V.Naturalist postage.

CCV minutes, F.O.M.N.P. Newsletter, GIAE student re survey.

Gippsland Waters Coalition re organisation meeting July 8th.

Some members will attend this meeting.

Darry Murphy M.L.C. re patch of heath at Yallourn turnoff as reported in local press and TV. This area will have a notice claiming the area as a roadside conservation area.

Shire of Morwell have advised of an increase in photocopy charges.

We have noted the increase and will try to reduce the charges.

State Library re non receipt of Naturalist (they are on the list)

City of Sale requesting Club information. Thorpe Publishing Group re details of Naturalist (they produce a book of publications)

Vic.Cons.Trust thanks for donation for Butterfly Appeal.

Publications received. Geelong Naturalist, N.E.(Tas)Naturalist,

Nature Territory, SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter.

East Gippsland Coalition requested our mailing list but it was decided that we will not give any organisation our mailing list.

These groups have plenty of avenues for obtaining lists.

Advised that Meeting Room has been booked for 1989.

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Discuss points raised in Latrobe Region Strategy Plan.

Draft Copies of submissions for Latrobe Regional Environmental Policy and Latrobe Region Land Use Policy.

Supplied Jane Calder with history of Club participation in declaring Tyers Regional Park, Holey Plains State Park, Moondarra State Park and Morwell National Park and suggested areas in parks suitable for photography for book. Referred Jane to Jack Brooks for Mt. North Park.

Ollie and I represented Club at luncheon with Cabinet Ministers at Mo 16/6/88. Discussed revegetation of Strzelecki Ranges with Ms. Kirner.

Report on Potato Vine found on excursion May 28th.

Neil Grigg reported on C.C.V. Fuel Reduction Burn Policy.

Apparently there differing views about this policy.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday July 20th at the YMCA Rooms Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Any people interested in the Club's business etc. are welcome at these meetings when all manner of Club activities are discussed.

Supper Roster July 22nd

Mrs Crane Mrs Beitlich



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G. Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O. Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
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<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>
<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS.</u>		
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AUGUST 1988

ISSUE No 296



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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.

Meeting:

Friday august 26th Speaker on  
Astronomy from L.V.Astronomical Soc.

Excursion:

Saturday August 27th to view the  
night skies from the Observatory.

It is intended that we have a BBQ tea at Coach Road  
carpark at 6.00pm (weather permitting) afterwards we  
will visit the observatory.

There will be a 50 cent charge for the observatory.

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Warragul F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK.

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.

Contact J.Brooks for details 056 231563

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FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

Meeting September 11th 1.30pm. at Fosters Gully picnic area  
for Koala survey.

Contact Yvonne 222597 or Peter Bryant 742017 for further information

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A.C.F.Local group

Meeting

2nd Wednesday of month at  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George ST.Morwell.

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L.V.F.N.C. Inc Bird Group

Meeting

Monday September 5th to Edward  
Hunter Reserve.

Meet Carpark at 10.00 am.



IMPORTANCE OF SAVING OUR RIVERS.

Talk by Ross Scott 27/5/88

Mr Scott explained how the Mid-Gippsland River Management Board (MGRMB) had changed from the River Improvement Trust and with that change there has also been a change in attitude from managing the river to restoring the river environment.

Mr Scott explained the C.E.P. project that our club has sponsored. This project has monitored and collected information along the Latrobe River and is now collating this information, preparing a video of the problems along the river, quantifying and costing these problems and then submissions will be prepared for money to carry out some of the necessary works. This project illustrated the new image and changing attitudes and actions of the Board. Other recent projects are work on Sale Common where 12 C.E.P. people worked under guidance of DCFL with MGRMB providing some of the money and contract work. This project will provide a base for environmental studies for school children and the general public. A project in association with Field and Game Society constructed a flood structure so that DCFL can manage water levels at Dowd's Morass. Field & Game Society provided money and organised up to 22 workers with 4 wheel drive vehicles to cart and pour concrete.

MGRMB is meeting with schools who hope to be more involved with environmental studies and will use a kit about the river, including the video, in the educational system. It is hoped service clubs will become involved with children planting trees, family groups, school groups and all enjoying the river environment.

Trials with willow plants to assess water quality for revegetation of river banks, collecting seeds of suitable native vegetation, drying seeds, planting, pricking out seedlings and then planting the trees, etc. on site are all continuing work for the staff of MGRMB.

Integrated co-ordinated catchment management of rivers of the State will have broad community, as well as expert, input into whole catchment including forests, streams and even the actions of one section of the community on downstream users or the river environment. An example was the different approach now to the operation of Yallourn Weir flood gate so that the banks are not so badly affected downstream. It is hoped to have further public awareness days this year.

Mr Scott explained the problems of the flood cuts on the Latrobe River. Because, unlike the native grasses, the introduced pastures could not exist under water for 4 days or more, it became necessary for farmers to drain off flood waters quickly or try to prevent floods. Seven kilometres of the Latrobe River have been lost since 1972, and 40 Km since 1919, through meanders being cut off. MGRMB have successfully restored two of these and will continue this work as money becomes available. We saw the results of these works on the excursion.

ALGAL BLOOM. As Mr Scott's family have a beach house on Uuck Arm of the Gippsland Lakes, he has watched and photographed the effect of the algal bloom which has lasted from before Christmas 1987 to after Easter 1988. It has affected tourism severely. There was also an algal bloom after Easter 1987. The algal bloom has fouled the water, affecting boating causing motors to burn out because of the thick scum; caused spider crabs and whitebait which came up to the top of the scum to be cooked by the sun; killed fish and even after three months the algal bloom was worse having a terrible smell.

contd...pp 2



IMPORTANCE OF SAVING OUR RIVERS. contd..

The smell came from the rotting algae giving off hydrogen sulphide (rotten egg smell) which even tarnished the silverware in the houses.

Ms Joan Kirner has formed a special committee which reports direct to her. The committee contains a wide range of knowledgeable people and a two day symposium is to be held in Bairnsdale in July. Algal bloom can have a long term effect damage as well. When the algae dies it rots and settles on the bottom of the lake draining oxygen and so everything dies including the shellfish and smaller creatures. Conditions that suit the algae are nutrients and phosphorous, warm temperatures and stratification between salt and fresh water.

Mr Scott then showed slides of the Latrobe River illustrating graphically the problems of erosion, some of the causes with examples of the solutions that have taken place by MGRME intervention, management and revegetation.

Bon Thompson.

EXCURSION TO LATROBE RIVER, FELS CREEK AND THOMSON RIVER 28/5/88

Able led by Ross Scott, Sue Ryswyk and Peter Wirken of the Mid Gippsland Rivers Management Board, 18 determined Field Naturalists donned their gum boots and wet weather gear, climbed aboard the 4-wheel drive vehicles and took off for the unknown ?

Our first stop was on a section of the Latrobe River at Glengarry where Ross showed the group two graphic examples of the problems caused by the use of Top Overs to bypass meanders in a stream during flood conditions. The top overs which are nothing more than scarps in the soil, eventually erode into fast flowing channels which cause serious impact erosion as the strong current cannonades off the stream banks downstream; at the same time the river is eroded upstream from the top over.

In one situation the problem was largely resolved several years ago by blocking off the eroded top over, whereas in a nearby problem area approximately 700 square metres of rock was placed in an eroded top over to bring it up to its original height with a cascade downstream. Extensive dredging of the upstream end of the meander was necessary prior to opening it up again. We viewed this work at a time of high stream flow with the surplus water cascading over the revived top over while the bulk of the river flowed around the meander. Stream damage has and will require extensive repair work in this area. Because of the amount of work which needs to be done and an acute lack of funds and resources, the Board is obliged to range back and forth along the streams carrying out the most urgent works at minimum cost. The Board is continually learning and trying out new innovations. Some works done by early River Improvement Trusts had damaging consequences; even now the Board is finding that what worked well in one locality or stream may not necessarily be effective elsewhere. Apparently quite a lot of head scratching goes on at times.

Some of the methods used by the Board to stabilise stream banks include concrete groynes as used in Rainbow Creek, battering banks whereby the top soil is removed and stockpiled, the banks sloped with an excavator, the top soil replaced as a dressing and suitable grasses sown.

contd...pp 3



LATROBE RIVER EXCURSION.

contd...

Another method uses timber beaching which consists of laying branches down battered banks and covering with soil; planting suitable trees, fencing to allow regrowth of native trees, and the use of willow cuttings.

Of the trees used some of the most successful in terms of withstanding flooding, being able to grow in heavy clay soils, ability to withstand strong winds and control of gully erosion are Swamp Paperbark, Melaleuca ericifolia, River Red Gum Eucalyptus camaldulensis, and Blackwood Acacia melanoxylon.

Our second port of call was Fells Creek, Toongabbie. This stream which flows through freehold land has never been officially recognised as a stream. Because of over clearing in the catchment area and the removal of the protective Melaleuca ericifolia thickets along the stream, it is now degraded over its full length. The insidious process of the banks being undercut, falling in and being undercut some more goes on relentlessly. The Board has put in grade control structures to stabilise the bottom of the creek and is progressively battering the banks with an excavator.

Shortly after our visit some hundreds of girl guides were to descend upon the creek and plant thousands of suitable native trees along the battered banks.

After lunch at the Cowwarr Depot, Philip Taylor the Board's Foreman of Works replaced Ross Scott at the helm, Ross having to leave to perform the enjoyable duty of attending his wife's graduation ceremony at the GIAE.

During the afternoon we invaded another obliging farmer's property to take in a stretch of the Lower Thomson River where the vegetation on the banks has been left intact resulting in a stable river system. The stream side vegetation included Blackwood, A. melanoxylon, Tree Violet Hymenanthera dentata, Swamp Gum E. ovata, Forest Red Gum E. tereticornis, Manna Gum E. viminalis, Silver Wattle A. dealbata, Mutton Wood Rapanea howittii, Swamp Paperbark M. ericifolia and Basket Willow. Solanum pseudo capsicum grew wild in the paddocks.

A drain which finished some considerable distance away, had made its way down to the river and started seriously eroding upstream from where it flowed into the river. A large quantity of rock was needed to arrest this erosion. In this locality the group found two large partially eaten carp; a Field Naturalist who forgot her lunch strenuously denied being responsible. The blame was placed on foxes or ravens and finally a Sea Eagle which happened to be doing a stint overhead got the rap.

Our excursion ended near the farmer's dairy where the group thanked our obliging leaders and drivers Philip, Sue and Peter for a job well done.

John Mewett.

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POTATO VINE.

On the club river excursion on 28th May we visited an area on the Thomson River at Fulham. On the farm the introduced Madeira Winter Cherry (Solanum pseudocapsicum) was growing profusely. along the river bank was growing a white climber. In fact one plant was growing 5 metres up a tree. There were many plants in the area. We agreed the creeper was a solanum because of the structure of the small white flower but could not identify it further with the books we had with us. Later we identified it as the Potato Vine or Jasmine Nightshade (Solanum jasminoides)

I sent some specimens down to Latrobe University as I could not find any records of this garden plant being naturalized in Victoria. The reply, requesting more details of the exact location, included "your record is the first for this species which indicates fairly clearly that it has become naturalized in victoria." The Flora of Australia volume 29 page 104 states this species is "native to South America" and is "widely grown as an ornamental in Australia, sparingly naturalised around Brisbane and Sydney".

An interesting find to add to the other pleasures of the excursion.

Bon Thompson.

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Correction. It has been pointed out that there was an error in the Bird list published in April issue of L.V.Naturalist. Refer to Page 3 and should read.

Olive-backed Oriole

Calls only at base camp.

White-winged Chough

3-12 birds feeding from the ground at base camp.

The editor alone must be responsible for the omission. Perhaps the phone rang or the door bell ! Ed.

---

BIRD NOTES.

The Willy Wagtail / Black-shouldered Kite incident recalls the sight, on 4/1/80 of a Wedge-tailed Eagle sitting on a normal height fence post while a fox walked apparently unconcernedly up along the fence and past the eagle without either of them appearing to be the slightest bit disturbed.

That incident occurred when a pair of foxes had a play area and burrow in full view of my house. They were often seen playing or reclining thereabout, watched with interest and enjoyment; but I had the burrow dug out because I had planted trees and shrubs to attract birds, and foxes and birds do not go together. The burrow, when dug out, showed no sign of habitation, so must have been only used as a play area.

Honor Crane.

---

We must report the death of the father of a member Mary Austin. Mr Austin died on 7th August aged 97 years. Our thoughts are with you Mary at this time.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JULY 20th 1988.

Report on meeting of Gippsland Waters Coalition. Decided that the Club would support this venture. We have applied for group membership.

August Meeting. Advised that there will be a speaker from the L.V. Astronomical Society at meeting. We are to view the night skies from the observatory after dark. BBQ to be held at 6.00pm at Coach Road Saturday 27th.

/Finance. Balance of \$781.23 Accounts passed for payment.

Paper \$20.16. Hall Hire \$30.00 Postage \$70.00 Publicity \$26.00

L.V. Printers \$159.60 Photocopy \$21.06.

Correspondence.

Australia Post advised of increased postal charges from October 1st

M. Braby re donation. L.V. Regional Commission urging submissions.

Maroondah Group SGAP re Wildflower Show early August.

J. Vincent re Naturalist article correction.

Publications Received N.T. Naturalist, C.C.V. Environment Victoria, SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter, Victorian Naturalist,

State Film Centre advice re film "Tale of Ruby Rose" this is a 35mm film shown at film festivals overseas and has been filmed in Tasmania. Worthwhile seeing we are told. It is showing at the State Film Centre from August 19th to September 15th.

Received copy of Constitution from FOMNP.

Programme Meeting to be held in October at home of the Trainors. If members have any suggestions re meetings or excursions please hand them to the Committee. Ass. Secretary M. Marschaleck 271910

Possible working bee at Bundilla in September to assist Mr Ringin in preparing the area for our use in December.

Mr Wall reported on Morwell Eastern Dump Re-habilitation plans.

Notes on Yallourn East Fields progress.

Briefing Morwell Western Dump.

Latrobe Landscape Consultative Committee.

Advice re Tree Festival.

Conservation Co-ordinator. Letter re Strategy Plan (LRC)

Submission draft reafforestation Strzelecki Ranges.

Mr Barry Murphy advised that area of heath at Hernes Oak will be preserved, but it is not appropriate for the area to be declared a Conservation Zone.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday August 24th at YMCA Rooms Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Any interested members are welcome to attend these meetings.

Supper Roster August 26th Peg Wall Pearl Reeves.

Please note that the Secretary will be away until October.

Contact Ass. Secretary M. Marschaleck if necessary.

tel. 27 1910 after 6.00pm.





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<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm.on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F.Hanley 9Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

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SEPTEMBER 1988

ISSUE No 297



# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.

Meeting Friday September 23rd  
Speaker Mr Noel Pearce "Gippsland Middens"  
Excursion Saturday September 24th to South Gippsland.  
Meeting Place Tarwin Lower (near Hotel) at 10.30 am  
Approx 1½ -2 hours drive from L.V.

Combined Excursion Bairnsdale F.N.C. Saturday October 8th. to  
Holey Plains State Park.

Meeting Place Rosedale in carpark area near Hotel.  
at 10.00am

Bird Group

Meeting Monday October 3rd to Moondarra area  
Meeting Place Moondarra Reservoir (Cecil Inn)  
at 10.00am.

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Warragul F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Mount Worth Park.

Action Days 3rd Sunday of Month

Contact J.Brooks for details 056 231563

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

Meeting October 9th 10.00am -1.30 pm. meet at roundabout at end of  
Tebb Tce, revegetation Billy's Creek, hand slash access tracks into  
blackberries in preparation for spraying.

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A.C.F.Local Group.

2nd WEdnesday of month  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George St.Morwell.

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SALINITY IN GIPPSLAND

On Saturday 23rd July, a party of sixteen L.V.F.N.C. members and two Loch Sport Field Naturalists met Mr Neville Penrose of the Department of conservation, Forests & Lands at Lake Guthridge in Sale at 10.00am. and while we had morning tea he refreshed our memory on several points.

" The salt in the top five to ten metres of the soil is partly the residue left from the country having been under the sea but mainly from the rainfall bringing about 200 kg/hectare /annum and it is usually washed down deep in the soil, some as far as the water table. If the water table rises, because more water enters the system than can leave it, the water mobilises the soil salt toward the surface. The first indications of this happening are that the more salt tolerant plant species gain a competitive advantage and begin to dominate in pastures; the tops of the eucalypts die and the reeds called Phragmites also die as salt loads increase in their root zone. As the salinity level further increases the Salicornia and Sarcocornia progressively dominate the pasture, the Melaleucas die, and the crops fail. further increases in salinity result in sterile hard ground ".

When Neville had pointed out on his map where examples could be found and where remedial action was in progress, he proceeded to conduct us to them.

At Andrew's Bay on the west of Lake Wellington we observed a contour line of brown Salicornia about a metre and a half above the level of the lake and that the tops of the Eucalypts were dying; however, the pasture on the top of the rise was viable. The area of Salicornia could have been growing to the level that saline ground water was outcropping from an aquifer. There are several extensive systems of aquifers at different levels in the region, being sandy deposits left in old stream beds and separated vertically by layers of largely impervious clay. The systems in general slope down to the south-east, and are fed by rainwater and irrigation.

The head of water in these aquifers is measured by a network of piezometers, tubes sealed into the chosen aquifer. At most sites two piezometers have been installed, one at about four or five metres and one at fifteen to twenty metres deep.

We went along Talbot's Road near the Heart and observed the performance of a piezometer seventeen metres deep and saw that the ground water was free flowing ie. artesian: The salinity was 10,000 E.C. units, the recent rain had brought the level up about a metre. The second piezometer at the site was five metres deep, free flowing, with salinity of 20,000 E.C. units. The surface water had salinity of 3000 E.C. units: the farmers crop was not healthy, parts of the paddock had water lying on them. The site was about four kilometres from the lake and five metres above it.

We had lunch several Km's down the track on the shore of Lake Wellington near the old R.A.A.F. jetty. this site was chosen because we were able to see the shoreline erosion and observe an interesting feature, namely, while the Phragmites had died on the bank it was still alive about ten metres out in the lake. This caused us to infer that the lake was less saline than the shore: the salinity of the lake water right at the edge was 8400 E.C. units.



SALINITY IN GIPPSLAND

contd...

Behind the shoreline the Melaleuca were also dying.

The salinity tolerance of the Phragmites is about 23,000 E.C. units and the Melaleuca about 34,000 E.C. units.

Over in the Clydebank farming area, we interrogated another piezometer installation: the twelve metre deep unit was artesian and 12,000 E.C. units, the six metre unit was also artesian and 13,000 E.C. units: the surface water was 3800 E.C. units. The farmers crop of rape was patchy, surviving on the high ground but mediocre on the rest of the paddock. Phragmites was growing on the edge of the road where there is some flushing and no stock.

In the Nambrock soldier settlement area salinity became evident after about five years of irrigation. The problem is kept in check now by a combination of three measures: eight kilometres of drains about 1.4 metres deep have been dug, eightysix free flowing bores installed and six ground water pumps installed. We inspected a typical pump which was bringing up water from about twenty metres down with a salinity of 8,000 E.C. units.

We drove from Nambrock over a fault line to Rosedale: the fault line isolates the Nambrock ground water from a local system we now inspected. The site was on an unmade road which traverses a shallow valley: the valley gently slopes to the east, a typical table drain ran down the "road" past the site. The now familiar pair of piezometers had been installed: both were artesian with similar salinity ie. about 6500 E.C. units. the drain water was 3300 E.C. units, the pasture was not vigorous.

Thanks Neville for a very informative day.

Jim Blucher.

Appendix

1. An E.C. unit is a micro-siemens/centimetre at 20 c a measure of conductivity. 1000 E.C. units are equivalent to about 640 parts per million of common salt in the water.
2. The Sarcozona praecox is a species of the Carpobrotus genus belonging to the Aizoaceae family, to which common pig-face also belong. It has a purple flower (Wrigley 1979)
3. Salicornia is often found on salt flats high on the intertidal zone. It grows 200-300mm high with jointed, leafless, freely branched succulent stems. (Cribb 1974)
4. The Melaleuca we saw was most commonly Swamp paper-bark, Melaleuca ericifolia Smith., (Galbraith 1977)
5. The piezometers are hydro-static head measuring devices and comprise hard P.V.C. tubes sealed into the chosen aquifer with bentonite clay with their tops about 500mm proud of grass level and fitted with removable caps.
6. Crops show progressive degradation as the salinity rises above 3000 E.C. units.



SALINITY IN GIPPSLAND contd...

7. Further information on salinity may be obtained from the Draft Regional Salinity Report, south Eastern Region, issued by Mr Evan Walker M.L.C., Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, May 1988. and in :- Saltland in Victoria, Victoria Irrigation Research & Promotion Organisations.  
Salt Action - Joint Action, Natural Resources & Environment Committee.

J.Blucher /J.Wall

SALINITY - LAKE WELLINGTON HINTERLAND.

Members of the L.V.F.N.C. warmly welcomed Pat and Molly when they met in Sale and Jim Wall introduced them to Neville Penrose (convenor of the south Region Salinity Task force).

We were soon on our way through the Wellington Hinterland. There were waterlogged pastures, gum trees dead or dying and brown lifeless vegetation at the waterline.

Our first stop was by the two piezometers installed to check water table levels. The salt level was very high. Removal of deep rooted trees over years and continued irrigation of shallow rooted plants increased water levels as the moisture could not all be absorbed through the salt level.

At Arthur's Bay and later when, fortified by lunch, we waded through water and slimy mud to the fringe of Lake Wellington, Neville showed us there had been, even since 1978, a high rate of change in vegetation and dieback due to high salt accumulation. Melaleuca eventually topples, reed at shoreline is buffeted by waves and water encroaches. The longer the water stays the saltier it will get. Lake Wellington was not as salty as Lake Victoria due to the wedge of salt coming from the Entrance, but there were high salt readings which could be catchment driven. Salinity was a natural occurrence and balanced itself out in time, but humans had changed the system. Different lifestyles from Europe, using irrigation, were another problem. This was now recognised and we were trying to get the system back into balance. One answer was to get water out of the system, but we must have a better understanding of systems before changing them.

Where is the salt coming from ? ...Areas under the sea in fairly recent geological times. When you cut trees up comes salt. If we could drop water table down to two metres it would go back, then irrigation would help. Salt will always be there.

It was a thoughtful group of humans who returned to Sale.

This does not cover all Neville told us. In our four stops in the Lake Wellington area, over lunch, he was questioned and there was general discussion. Thankyou Neville. Our appreciation is also due to the L.V.F.N.C. for organising this excursion.

This is another view from the Loch Sport and District F.N.C..



REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 24th 1988.

Working Bee at Bundilla, date to be confirmed with Mr Ringin.

Advised that booking for Traralgon High School Camp has been confirmed. January 27.28.29.

Finance. Balance \$459 91. Accounts for payment. Petty Cash \$50.00  
YMCA \$10.00 CCV \$20.00

Received final grant for C.E.P. (MGRB) \$15,000.00

Correspondence. Heritage Books re books on environment

A.C.F. re donation for Lemonthyme Forest. DSIR (NZ) re Weta exchange

V.F.N.C.A. re weekend in March 1989. Geelong will be host Club and activities will be around the Bellarine Peninsula.

Ministry of Planning & Environment copy of letter to S.E.C.V. re planting and stabilization of dumps.

Loch Sport F.N.C. re August excursion. Copy of letter re Pink Heath at Hernes Oak. Select Office Supplies re equipment.

Monarch Bird & Wildlife Tours (A.C.T.) C.C.V. re membership.

Glen Henry tours re tours available. Australian Ranger bulletin.

V.N.P.A. re preservation of alpine area. Tastrek brochure re tours in Tasmania etc.

The meeting was addressed by David Langmore of L.R.C. Latrobe Landscape Consultative Committee re proposed Tree Festival which may be held in the area in the future. We listened with interest and await further developments.

Also addressed by a member of "Earls Road Ragwort Action Group" re Trafalgar Water Trust area which they believe will be handed over to tree planting schemes. Apparently this is a beautiful area with lots of flora and fauna including Lyrebirds.

Decided that we would do a census of the area September 3rd. and give any plant, bird lists to the group to help with their submission to Shire Council.

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Article on Strzelecki Ranges, as suggested by Mrs Kirner, posted to CCV, ACF, LRC, Mrs Kirner and Val Callister.

Submission on Draft Regional Salinity Report forwarded.

Correspondence received. DCFL newsletter on Flora & Fauna Guarantee

LRC re appearing before panel on "Steps Ahead".

DCFL re appearing before panel on Code of Forest Practices.

Presented for discussion. Draft copy of submission to Commissioner for the Environment re Aquatic Environments State of the Environment Report 1988.

Draft copy of submission to DCFL re Proposed trial of VAUS - Environment Effects.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday September 21st at 7.30 pm at YMCA rooms Morwell.

Supper Roster September 23rd. Norma Rees M. Marschalek

Mrs Thompson has requested that for October meeting we bring any books containing plant keys to help with plant identification.

Wildflowers of Victoria Jean Galbraith

Wildflowers of South-East Australia Jean Galbraith

Native Trees & Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia Leon Costermans

The above three books contain plant keys.

Please Note Asst. Secretary M. Marschalek Phone number in the absence of Secretary. 27 1910 after 6.00pm.



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COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting

Friday October 28th.

Speakers

Bon and Ollie Thompson -  
Key night, identifying Vic.  
native flora.

Excursion

Saturday October 29th. Identifying  
our local flora.

Meeting place

Meet at 10am. East of  
Vincent Rd., Morwell.  
(Lions Rest area). Further  
details on excursion at  
October's General Meeting.

Bird Group

Meeting

Monday November 7 th.

Meeting Place

Tyers, to garden of John  
and Val Larson. Meet  
opposite General Store  
at 10 am.

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Warragul F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Mt. Worth. Park.

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.

Contact J. Brooks for details.      Phone 056 231563

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Friends of Morwell National Park

November 13th, 1.30pm. Meet at Foster's Gully Picnic  
area for Koala Survey and Butterfly orchid survey.

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A.C.F. local group.

2nd Wednesday of month  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George St. Morwell.

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WILPENA POUND AND THE GRAMPIANS

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A TALK BY KEN HARRIS. FRIDAY 24 JUNE, 1988.

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At our June meeting Ken Harris, through the medium of his slides, transported us to Wilpena Pound in the Flinders

Ranges of South Australia, and the Grampians of Victoria. To close his talk Ken took us briefly to the Blue Mountains of New South Wales and finally to England.

Wilpena Pound

With Ken as the guide of our armchair tour we arrived at Wilpena Pound in pouring rain late in August 1987. As if to compensate for the rain Ken saw his first marbled gecko soon after arrival. The toes of this gecko have leaf-like tips and are its distinguishing feature.

Next day as we started our walk we noticed that the rain had ruined the wattle blooms. They would not recover now until new buds opened. Cassia artemesoides was also rain damaged but huge masses of Clematis microphylla delighted us. There was also Caladenia toxochina (similar to C. dilatata), three lovely Dodonea lobulata in fruit, and a colourful Acacia pycnantha. Look. There. Under a stone a handsome gecko posing nicely. We noticed then that the grass tree endemic to this area, Xanthorrea quadrangularis had finished flowering.

St Mary Peak appeared shrouded in mist, but we climbed on finding the brilliant Pultenaea longiflorens and one of the two Grevillia species of the area, G. assera, in flower.

Then, looking down from Tadarra Saddle, we could see steeply tilted sandstone rock disappearing into the cloud layer below. The conditions on the mountain made climbing hazardous so we reluctantly came down.

Our return path took us through the Pound by the old homestead where Ken had seen the gecko yesterday. There was little in flower here, but we did find a very spiny Solanum elaeagnifolium, one of a very large world wide genus of which Australia has a generous share. There was also Myoporum montanum bearing both flowers and berries. Ken pointed out at this stage the lack of common names for Australian plants. In European countries folk law has provided many common names whereas here we must learn the botanical names of plants.

Next morning driving out of Wilpena camp site we looked back at the hills guarding the Pound, Mt. Karawarra, Mt. Boorong and St. Mary Peak and noted a yellow colouring spread across the paddocks and along the roads. We discovered that this was Zygophyllum auranitacum - a most unusual native.

Turning towards Wilpena, where red kangaroo had grazed the previous morning, we saw the native gorse, Daviesia genistifolia - a long narrow-spined variety. The species is very varied with some members of the species looking little like each other. Here too we found Acacia continua with a few newly opened balls, and Spyridium phebophyllum



## WILPENA POUND AND THE GRAMPIANS continued....

which looked very like S. parviflorum. Also in the vicinity was the very sticky Dodonea viscosa, sub-species conjunctissima, with pale green fruit, in contrast to D. lobulata's red fruit.

On our final morning we climbed Mt. Olsen Bagge where we had a view of Wilpena Pound. The northern end, open and flat with mostly short grass, surrounded by mountains which closed in towards the southern end. The trees of the Pound, mostly native pine, Callitris columellaris, were in fruit. Yellow footed rock wallabies inhabit this area, but were not seen. Atop Mt. Olsen Bagge grew acacias scrubby eucalypt, and in a rocky area, Pimelea petrophila with Pterostylis nutica in the crevices.

Acacia rigens needle-like leaves and rain-damaged blossoms appeared as we turned towards camp, then Templetonia aculeata, Grevillea lavendulacea and the low sprawling Dodonea baueri, so different from other Dodoneas with its wingless fruit.

Keeping a sharp lookout for geckos we found Lerista muelleri - a sleek, short-legged skink, one of the five main species of Australian lizards.

One of the loveliest of the plants found, a two feet diameter clump of Hybanthus floribunda (violet family), was covered in flowers. The matt rush, Lomandra dura, believed to be restricted to this area, was here too.

All three species of blanket fern were found, within ten feet of each other, at the creek crossing. These were wooly cloak fern, Chislanthes lasiophylla, bristly cloak fern C. distans, and rock fern, C. tenuifolia.

Too soon, we were leaving Wilpena Pound, but on our way out a few more delights awaited us - Sida petrophila, 2-3 feet high, the unusual rusty red flowers of Swainsonia stipularis along the roadsides, and Australian Hollyhock, (a mallow) Lavatera plebia.

### The Grampians.

The beautiful weather during the trip to the Grampians was in marked contrast to that during the Wilpena trip. This was in September 1987 and, in Ken's words, the flowers were "out of this world".

We wandered along, in fancy, through bushland, delighted at every turn by plants such as the Flame Heath, Astroloma conostephoides, looking like native cranberry, but with bigger flowers. A most unusual member of the Proteacea family Conospermum mitchelli with flowers like little urns, caught our attention.

Of the number of species of Grevillea in the Grampians we found the Flame Grevillea, G. dimorpha - broad leaf and a narrow leaf variety growing ten feet apart, then G. aquifolium, common but variable in colour, in abundance, low and bushy. Another very variable species, Daviesia relicifolia, with its leaves ending in very prickly needles, was found too. Look. Another skink. This time Trachydosaurus rigosis (a shingle-back) with its stumpy tail and lumpy pine cone appearance.

Further on, we found Thelymitra ontemnifera and the blue lily Camessilla corymbosa on its five inch stem



## WILPENA POUND AND THE GRAMPIANS continued.....

with a slender leaf, another Daviesia, D. brevifolia with spikes instead of leaves, Pultenaea mollis, several hakeas, H. rostrata with its swan-like seed pod. H. ulcinea and H. sericea, then the unusual orange colour of Drosera glanduligera with an insect caught on the incredibly sticky end of a spine.

Our guide now showed us the highlight of the trip; the exquisite Blue Tinsellily, Calectasia cyanea, really looking as if made from tinsel. A flash of brilliant pink near a creek caught our eyes and proved to be Bauera sessiliflora.

We now moved on towards Mt. William finding Grevillea alpina on a ledge, Pseudanthus ovalifolius, about nine inches high, Trymalium d'altonii of the Ranacae family and the lovely Correa aemulas' greenish bells with purple ends.

The Grampians banksia was seen as we looked towards Mitchell's Plateau, then looking down, the Mountain Dragon, Amphibolurus diemisiaus, diamond-patterned, scurried past us.

Red Mountain Bluff was in sight as we looked north along the eastern edge of the Grampians. Here, Daviesia virgata one of the few Daviesia which are not spiny, and Platylobium obtusangulum flowered profusely. The Grampians Thryptomene T. calycina, commonly cultivated, was here too, as was Phebalium bilobum, common in the Strzlecki's.

On the western edge of the Grampians, where the land is flat, with marshes and swamps, Calytrix sullivanii, one of three species, was found. We went on and found Stackhousia monogyna, a very variable species, and this one looking little like a monogyna. There were also Solanum simile, a yellow-flowered Pimelea sephyllifolia, and a very spikey Hakea rugosa.

At the side of the causeway through swampy ground we found Grevillea lavandulacea, similar to one seen in the Flinders Ranges.

The last morning in the Grampians came all too quickly. A walk before breakfast gave us a few more delights. At the foot of a cliff, like snowballs, was Pimelea linifolia, further on Boronia nana, Flame grevillea, G. dimorpha, and Astrotricha asperifolia, known as star hair because of the fine fuzz on its stem.

Just as we were leaving the Grampians, there along the roadside was Tetratheca ciliata, then a very colourful cultivated pea, probably an escape from stock fodder plantings.

To close a delightful armchair ramble, Ken showed us his picture, taken at great risk to life and limb, of Remacola eliptica, an orchid which grows only in clay in crevices of sandstone cliffs. At the close of the show came Ken's piece de resistance- the Pascoflower, a wild anemone which grows in profusion on Royston Heath, one of the chalk heaths of England.

Lights on. We were back in our chairs at the Education Centre. Ken was warmly thanked for a very pleasurable evening.

Florence Blucher.



OUR FRIEND HONOR CRANE

It is with much regret that we report the death of Mrs. Honor Crane on October 3rd.

Mrs. Crane was a member of the Club since the very early days when we met in Yallourn. She took on the job of Librarian which she held until recently, and was also the Name Badge Secretary until March this year.

Honor, as a lot of people knew her, was a keen naturalist, interested in the Wanderer butterfly, and a keen bird watcher and member of the Bird Observers' Club.

We will always remember a kind person, willing to help anyone as much as she was able. Honor will be greatly missed by her many friends from L.V.F.N.C.

The following article was written by Honor earlier this year.

BIRD NOTES

At about 4 pm on 28th of March this year, I heard the screeches of a Sulphur-crested cockatoo overhead - a not unfamiliar sound hereabout.

Looking up, I saw the cockatoo flying rather higher than usually seen, with a Wedge-tailed eagle circling perhaps a quarter of the ground distance below it.

The cockatoo's flight deviated somewhat, but was in a basically straight but upward-inclined line, with the eagle maintaining the distance between them.

This continued until both birds were beyond my range of vision, the cockatoo screeching as cockatoos often do in flight, but with a note of stress, I judged.

I surmised that, had the cockatoo descended, the eagle would have pounced on it as soon as it became the lower bird. It was probably inevitable that the smaller bird would tire first and become the eagle's next meal.

Honor Crane.

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Condolences to Club member Mrs. Pearl Reeves on the sudden death of her son Ian.

Another sad piece of news was to hear after returning from the funeral of Honor Crane that our friend and fellow member Beryl Matthews had died.

Beryl and her husband Stan have been valued members of L.V.F.N.C., and were keen supporters of the Monday Bird Group.

Beryl and Stan usually obtained the key and opened the meeting room, and were custodians of the supper requisites.

To Stan and his family, our sincere sympathy from all friends of L.V.F.N.C.



VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION (V.F.N.C.A.)

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND A.G.M. AND CAMPOUT, 1989.

HOSTED BY GEELONG FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB.

LOCALITY: Bellarine Peninsula.

ACCOMMODATION: Bunk-style, Ocean Grove Uniting Church  
Camp. \$16/day including 3 meals. Caravan  
parks and motels in Ocean Grove and surround-  
ing area ( please book your own).

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: Marine Biology cruise in conjunction  
with Marine Studies personnel, approx 5 hours on Port  
Phillip and Swan Bays; beach walk, rock shelf walk, mangrove  
swamps, walk on Edwards Point (botany, birds), snorkelling  
with the seals (optional); discovering the Ocean Grove  
Nature Reserve.

The day boat trip and snorkelling will cost approx. \$15.

For those who are not seafarers another activity will  
be arranged.

There will be opportunities to persue many favourite interests  
-birds, plants, marine biology, geology, sea-shore etc.

A final programme will be circulated in February next  
year.

Keep this weekend free and help to rejuvenate the V.F.N.C.A.

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THE GREAT TASMANIAN FORESTS WALK. NEW YEAR'S EVE TO

FEBRUARY 5th, 1989.

The Wilderness Society, in co-operation with bushwalking  
clubs and other organisations, is organising a walk  
from the north coast to the southern tip of Tasmania  
next summer. The aim of the walk is to promote an awareness  
of the precarious state of our forests in Tasmania, the  
mainland and overseas, by experiencing them first hand.

The walk extends over a 5 week period, but you can  
join it for a day, a week or a month; however long you  
like.

The walk will cater for all levels of fitness, experience  
and ages.

Over the entire walk food will be provided, packs  
carried and camps prepared. For about \$7 per day it's  
a real bargain.

Further information and registration forms are available  
from L.V.F.N.C. Secretary.

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SPECIAL NOTE

Please bring any books containing plant keys to the  
October meeting to help with plant identification.

Wildflowers of Victoria by Jean Galbraith.

Wildflowers of South-East Australia by Jean Galbraith.

Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia  
by Leon Costermans.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21 1988

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Magazine Editor. Pam Petschack will fill in for Lorna Long while she is away for this month.

Spring Working Bee. Secretary contacted Andy Ringin. A weekday or Saturday October 22 will be all right with him. Secretary to let him know what is decided by Club members.

Licola Campout. Members to be asked to put their names on the list as an approximate number has to be given to the Management.

Programme Planning night. List to be circulated for September and to be in no later than October 10.

November Excursion. A suggestion was put forward that the Bird outing be combined with the official opening of the Ada Big Tree Reserve. No agreement was reached so had to be deferred until the next meeting after further suggestions are put forward.

Conservation Co-ordinator

Traralgon Creek Road Reserve submission to Mr. Noble, DCFL, and copy to L.R.C.

Addressed panel on Code of Forest Practices.

Provided plant and bird lists for area at Trafalgar for local group.

Unable to attend Mr. Roper's launching of coastal policy.

Report result of article on Strzelecki Ranges reforestation that was sent to CCV and ACF.

To prepare submission on Water Resource Management Series- Gippsland Water Resources environmental issues.

Finance.

Balance of cheque account \$415.91

After payment of all accounts passed at meeting.

Supper roster October 28th Nora O'Reilly and partner.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm.on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWHARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F.Hanley 9Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon.Treasurer

Mrs A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825.

NATURALIST \$8.00

FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$ 10.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
Members of all Clubs and should be addressed to

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99 Chamberlain Road  
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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting: Friday November 25.  
Speaker: David Stickney. "Birds."  
Excursion: Saturday November 26 to Coolart  
near Somers by bus.  
Meeting place: 8am-Leaving Traralgon Hospital car.  
park.  
8.15-Pick up at Morwell Post Office.  
8.35-Pick up opposite Moe Railway  
Station.  
8.50-Trafalgar Post Office.  
9.10-Warragul.  
Cost of excursion is \$11(bus) plus \$3 entry. Total \$14.  
Cheques to Ann Stewart beforehand if possible.  
Please advise Gwyn Trainor (34-3659) by Tuesday 22 if you  
cannot go.  
Bus leaves Coolart at 4pm.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday December 5.  
Meeting Place: West end of Edward Hunter  
Reserve. Leader: E. Lubcke.  
Meet at the top end of Wirraway  
St., Moe at 10 am.

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Warragul F.N.C.

Contact secretary for details.

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Friends of Mount Worth Park.

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.  
Contact J. Brooks for details: 056-231563

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

December 11. Start 10am -1.30pm. Meet at end of Tebb Tce.  
Hand pull weeds and map location along proposed nature trail.  
Christmas BYO BBQ back at Fosters Gully picnic area.

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A.C.F. Local Group.

2nd Wednesday of month.  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George St. Morwell.



# HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK

Saturday October 8th was the date for a combined excursion with Bairnsdale F.N.C. and six members of that Club combined with three members of L.V.F.N.C. for the day.

We were not sure of the weather, being rather cloudy, but there was plenty of sunshine between the heavy clouds.

Mr. Thompson was elected our leader, so the convey moved off in the direction of the Park. On the way there was a beautiful show of Wedding Bush, Ricinocarpus pinifolius each side of the road, the cream flowers a perfect picture in the sunshine.

The first stop was at West Boundary Road where a profusion of flowers was all around us. The Sticky Boronia, B. anemonifolia, was a deep pink colour in contrast to the Blunt Everlasting, Helichrysum obtusifolium, with their papery white flowers.

The first orchid find was the Waxlip, Glossodia major, and we continued to see many throughout the day. The variation in colour was amazing.

Other plants here were Golden Grevillea, G. chrysothaea, Twiggy Guinea-flower, Hibbertia virgata, the Tassel Cord Bush, Restio tetraphyllus, which looked very graceful. The Pink Beard-Heath, Leucopogon ericoides, was plentiful, and all through the whole park were the large Saw Banksia, B. serrata and smaller Silver Banksia B. marginata.

We journeyed on to Long Ridge Road and were delighted with large areas of Daphne Heath, Brachylomadaphnoides, and also Flat-Pea, Platylobium obtusangulum, and dainty mauve flowers of Twining Fringe-Lily, Thysonotus patersonii. Another Hibbertia was here, the Erect Guinea-Flower, H. stricta.

Large areas of Silky Tea-tree, Leptospermum myrsinoides, were in full flower amid the Shining Peppermint E. nitida, their woolly blooms an attraction to birds and butterflies.

Driving along there was a splash of bright yellow which was the Broad Wedge-Pea, Gompholobium latifolium, with their large pea-shape flowers, and also purple flowers of the Rush Lily, Sowerbaea juncea.

At Harriers Swamp the Ranger, Mr. Peter Lawrence, met us and we stayed a short while where the Club Moss, Selaginella sp. was found with some Sphagnum moss beside the swamp.

We were led along Banksia Track past a stand of Black She-Oak, Casuarina littoralis, then stopped at a picnic area and saw Pink Fingers, Caladenia carnea, with delicate pink flowers and many plants of Tall Sundew, Drosera auriculata, an insect eating plant with pink flowers. We noticed plants of Running Postman, Kennedia prostrata, the red flowers flat on the ground.

Driving along Lime-Pit Road another splash of colour was deemed to be Mint Bush, Prostanthera af. denticulata, a very rich purple flower. We were told that this plant will be officially named next year.

On arrival at Holey Hill Picnic area and our lunch spot, we hurried to the picnic tables in an effort to beat the rain, and managed to keep dry while enjoying a late lunch.

The Pomaderris of the area was not to be seen easily; a few small plants were found. However, some Wallflower Orchids, Diuris Longifolia, were found and as we walked along the track many



HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK contd....

plants of Love Creeper Conosperma volubile were twining throughout the undergrowth. On returning to the cars our talk continued over afternoon tea and it was then that the Ranger, Peter Lawrence, was thanked for his time with us. We were led out of the Park in two parties going in different directions, and just as we commenced our drive a tremendous thunderstorm overtook us. The heavy rain made us thankful to be in our cars, even if vision was difficult because of the heavy rain.

Thus ended a most enjoyable day with friends of Bairnsdale F.N.C.

We hope for another similar combined excursion in 1989.

Lorna Long.

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GIPPSLAND MIDDENS

A talk by Mr. Noel Pearce to the L.V.F.N.C. on September 23.

Noel Pearce works for Victorian Archeological Survey (VAS) as a Site Officer for Gippsland. VAS has been in existence for 15 years and employing Aboriginal people for the past 14 years.

Noel's area of responsibility covers Korrumburra to Wilson's Promontory and from the Snowy Mountains to Mallacoota.

The main roles for Site Officers are to protect, manage and prevent destruction of Aboriginal sites by developers. There are 1200 recorded sites in Gippsland plus 900 at Wilson's Promontory.

Work at present includes an ongoing project surveying along the coast from Lakes Entrance to Lake Corringlenear Orbost, a survey along the Mitchell River to identify any shelters with associated archeological deposits. A C.F.L. Ranger from Bairnsdale recently found some fresh water mussel shells which are regarded as highly significant. There are no other known shell deposits in the area.

Noel showed a number of slides from a variety of sites around Victoria. He explained that from an Aboriginal camp site, the only things that would probably survive would be post hole sites, stone tools, remains from shell fish and bones. Middens may be from three metres to one kilometre wide and from one to four metres in depth. Different occupational layers may be evident. The oldest midden dates back about 15,000 years.

We saw examples of scrapers, spear points, sliced rocks and implements for clearing scrub. Axes were sharpened on sandstones. There was a slide of such a grinding stone near Stratford. Axe heads were sometimes inserted into a split sapling which would then grow around it.

Tools were also used for removal of bark to provide shelter, for cutting canoes and for making toe-holds in trees as an aid to catching possums and as lookouts. The tree in the slide was from Wyperfeld National Park but it is thought that Europeans may have made the toe-holds.

Several aspects of site management were shown. Fencing to keep out rabbits and control of erosion through revegetation. At Boolool Peninsula the property owner's children were sliding down an embankment when they uncovered a skull! The police contacted V.A.S. The management plan for this site was to level



GIPPSLAND MIDDENS contd...

out the slope, lay enviromat and reseed, then star pickets were used to hold wire on top of this to keep all in place while revegetation occurred.

Sometimes cages may be installed to prevent vandalism. This was done at an art site in caves near the Snowy River. This place has been declared an archeological area which means that written permission must be obtained from V.A.S. to visit. Another art site in a Grampians cave depicted Bunjil and his two dogs, creator of the Aboriginal people, the land and the trees.

Consultation with local government bodies is most important. In one slide a Shire had bulldozed a dirt road through the middle of a midden. A happier outcome occurred at Mallacoota where discussions between C.F.L., V.A.S. and the Water Commission lead to a sewerage trench being dug underneath a burial site instead of through it.

Sometimes where nothing further can be done in terms of management, salvage operations are carried out. In the slide shown, the site was being eroded. A one metre test pit is excavated, and any shells, artifacts and soil samples are sent to the laboratory to try and piece together a history of the site.

Drinking water was an important consideration along travelling routes. An example of a natural rock well was interesting. It would probably have been covered with bark sheets held down with rocks to prevent contamination.

Historical sites other than Aboriginal are also investigated. At Lake Condah in the Western District, a mission dormitory for young men was excavated yielding clay pipes and war and football medals.

Noel finished this interesting evening by explaining that historical artifacts may be owned but that it is illegal to sell them. Most artifacts are housed at V.A.S. but it is hoped to have a Keeping Place near Bairnsdale in the not too distant future.

Julie Parker.

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ABORIGINAL MIDDEN SITES

Excursion led by Noel Pearce of Victorian Archeological Survey.

We left home on a sparkling morning and drove through the Dumbalk valley enjoying the scenery and surrounds. We paused to allow a family of wood ducks to cross the road. On the Lower Tarwin Road we noticed a patch of the White Kunzea Kunzea ambigua which is far west of its normal occurrence at Yanakie. We think the seed may have been introduced during road construction.

At Tarwin Lower eleven members gathered and the excursion moved off to Venus Bay to inspect a midden on a vacant block amongst the houses in the township. It was approximately half

contd. p.4.



ABORIGINAL MIDDEN SITES contd.

a mile inland midway between the inlet and the coast. The midden consisted of a large mound of fragmented shells marking the site of the old cooking fires.

We moved on to Harmer's Haven near Wonthaggi to the site of layers of shell fragments exposed by the eroding dunes. The shell fragments included abalone, limpets, whelks, bivalves and other shells of rocky shores.

After lunching in a sheltered nook amongst the teatree, we ventured further along the shore to investigate more middens. These middens are often found near freshwater and this proved to be the case on this excursion. There were clusters of kelp flies clinging to the rock face of the cliff. A sand blow had exposed a midden allowing shell fragments to accumulate in a hollow. There were extensive plantings of Marram Grass on the sand blow with a few plants of the also introduced purple groundsel Senecio elegans and other plants also helping to bind the sand. It is seldom that stone fragments are found on these sand blows as the stones sink into the loose sand leaving only the shell fragments visible on the surface. These middens are probably very ancient as carbon dating of shell fragments from Venus Bay gave a reading of approximately 2,800 years. Amongst the Coast Teatree Leptospermum leavigatum and other shrubbery a hairy form of the Silky Teatree Leptospermum myrsinoides was flowering.

During the excursion Mr. Pearce distributed some recording sheets to show how the survey is conducted and the sites recorded. He also answered members' questions on the habits of the Aborigines.

At about 2.30pm the threatening storm broke, driving the party, in great haste, to the shelter of the teatree thickets. A rather damp party finally headed for home, bringing to an end an interesting and enjoyable excursion.

Ellen Lyndon and  
Oliver Thompson.

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EXTRACTS FROM V.I.A.S. NEWS

The Newsletter of The Victorian Archeological Survey.

August 1988.

In modern urban societies such as Melbourne it is easy to forget that food is seasonal. Our large wholesale markets are supplied by extensive freight networks.

Aborigines, on the other hand, exploited seasonal change not by transporting food but by moving from place to place according to seasonal food supply. Insights into patterns of movement can be gained from a study of archeological records. A study of camp sites, for example, will often reveal the remains of meals consisting of seasonal foods. These could include the bones of migratory birds or the remains of emu eggs. But at Discovery Bay near Portland, Michael Godfrey is taking another

contd. p.5.



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EXTRACTS FROM V.A.S. NEWS AUGUST 1988 contd....

approach. The process involves analysing samples, taken from ancient shell middens, of the common shellfish, pipi. Small fragments of pipi are ground up and analysed for the presence of two different isotopes of oxygen found in the lime of the shell.

Isotopes are different forms of the same element, in this case oxygen. There are two oxygen isotopes- known as 16o and 18o. The amount of each found in sea water varies according to the temperature of the sea. As the pipi grows, changes in isotopes are incorporated into the lime of its shell. Just as a tree's growth can be followed by examining its rings, so a pipi accumulates annaul layers of lime. By analysing the amount of isotope in each layer, the time of year when the shell was harvested and eaten can be discovered.

The work of Michael Godfrey offers a window on the past. Middens used by Aborigines many thousands of years ago may reveal new and exciting information about the way in which the first Australians moved in order to exploit seasonal foods.

---

Mounds recorded at Kanyapella, an ancient lake bed near Barmah Forest in northern Victoria, varied in size from less than a metre to 2-3 metres in width. Similar mounds found along the Murnay are up to 3,000 years old.

They accumulate from clay Aborigines collected from the river bed and rolled into balls to retain heat while cooking at the camp-site. Fresh water mussels, for example, could be placed in the centre of the clay and baked in the embers of a fire.

Scarred trees result from stripping bark. Scar sizes vary according to use. Large canoes or bark for shelter leave larger scars than shields or containers. Bark was removed by cutting the required shape with a stone axe then levering it from tree. Red gum and black box trees were the most commonly used. The best time to remove bark was when the sap was running.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We have become aware of some errors and misconceptions contained in the article about Flinders Ranges and Grampians published in Latrobe Valley Naturalist, October 1988.

Mrs. Blucher has made a list of the corrections and this will be available for anyone who would like it.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 1988

Ten members present and five apologies.

Naturalist Editor: Pam Petschack is willing to take on this position.

Program Meeting: Held on October 18. Secretary contacting speakers etc.

Astronomical Society: We have been contacted by Chris Stockdale and have arranged to visit the Observatory on November 11. Details to be given at General Meeting.

U.N.P.A. Calendar: We were shown the 1989 calendar which is of the "desk" variety. It looked nice but seemed impractical in the view of the Committee. Members can order if they wish.

November meeting and excursion: David Stickney to be the speaker on Birds and the excursion will be a bus trip to Coolart (24 seater bus). Names to be listed at October meeting. Cost \$11 plus \$3 admission to Coolart. Please send to Treasurer before meeting if possible.

Finance: Balance \$440.89. Accounts for payment: \$75 postage, hall hire \$20, Y.M.C.A. \$6.

Correspondence: Earls Road Land Care Group re Trafalgar Water Trust area. Copy of submission.

East gippsland Coalition re donations.

Gryphon Gallery re exhibition. Already finished.

Museum of Victoria re Salinity, Salt and the Earth Exhibition.

Ministre of Planning and the Environment re request for grant.

C.C.V. Newsletter.

Gippsland Coalition- affiliation approved.

Wilderness Society re Public Meeting in November re Saving Tasmania's Forests.

Girl Guides re knowledge of edible plants in the area. Mrs. Thompson to look into this.

Publications: Victorian Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist, F.O.M.N.P. Newsletter, L.R.C. Strategy, S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group Newsletter, N.E.C. (Tas) Naturalist, L.R.C. publicity "Mid Gippsland Catchment".

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

In company with Jim and Peg Wall, Ollie and I visited Paul Noisette, Asst. Engineer, Narracan Shire, re "animals crossing" signs at Auchterlonie Reserve.

Trafalgar Water Reserve: Received list of plants we identified, letter to Shire President, Letter to Mrs. Murphy including copy of letter, spoke to Asst. Engineer, Shire of Narracan re plant list and reserve.

Jim Blucher prepared submission on Environmental Issues, Gippsland Water Resources.

Prepared draft letter to D.C.F.L. re rail reserves.

Jim and Peg Wall and Ollie and I carried out survey of orchid plants in what was originally Shire of Traralgon Wildflower Reserve on Traralgon Creek Road. There is to be a meeting between L.R.C., D.C.F.L., Shire and L.V.F.N.C. re site of road through reserve.

Request for help from Joy Johnstone and friends re Water Ski Club on Lake Tyers. Referred local people to Jon Neville, M.P.E., for information. Next C'ttee meeting November 23, Y.H.C.A. Morwell. 7.30pm.

Supper roster: November 25, D. Chipman and P. Delahey.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F.Hanley 9Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

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DECEMBER 1988

ISSUE No 300



# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTSL.V.F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting:

Friday, January 20, 1989.  
Members' night.Campout:January 28, 29, 30, 1989.  
Traralgon High School Camp, Licola.  
Cost \$6 per night.  
B.Y.O. food, pillows and sheets/  
sleeping bags.March Campout: F.N.C.V.Labour Day Weekend, March, 1989.  
Ocean Grove Uniting Church Camp.  
\$16/day including 3 meals.  
Caravan parks and motels in Ocean  
Grove and surrounding area (please  
book your own).Warragul F.N.C.Contact Secretary for details.

---

Friends of Mt. Worth Park.

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.

Contact J. Brooks for details: 056-231563

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A.C.F. Local Group:Second Wednesday of month.  
Migrant Resource Centre  
George St., Morwell.

---





# Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists

## 1989 PROGRAMME

### JANUARY

20th Members' slide night. Dial-a-Safari slide talk.  
27-29th Camp-out - Licola, Traralgon High School Camp

### FEBRUARY

24th S.E.C. Rural Services, L.V.: Fire Control  
25th Visit area for slow burn, late March

### MARCH

17th A.G.M. and film  
18th Margaret Rowe: Rock pool area

### APRIL

28th Joan Vincent: Birds  
29th Sale common

### MAY

26th Fungi  
27th Related excursion

### JUNE

23rd Andrew Blackburn: Fraser Island and S.E. Gld.  
24th Local excursion

### JULY

28th Gary Richardson: Microscopic life  
29th Pond life in local area

### AUGUST

25th Barry Traill: Endangered species  
26th Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens

### SEPTEMBER

22nd Jane Calder: Overview of Victoria's State and  
National Parks  
23rd Valencia Creek

### OCTOBER

27th Sid Cook: Reptiles  
28th Boat Cruise

### NOVEMBER

24th Nick Barton: Spiders  
25th Excursion (unrelated!)

### DECEMBER

9th Christmas Party

## 1990

### JANUARY

19th Members' Slide Night  
26-29th ANA Day Weekend Camp-out





BIRDS OF EAST GIPPSLAND

A talk by Barry Traill to L.V.F.N.C. on October 23, 1987.

Our former "Club Mascot", Barry Traill, returned to us in October, 1987, in the guise of lecturer on the birds of East Gippsland. He chose that district because of its proximity, and hence relevance, to us and because of the diversity of habitat it offers - from the rain forests of Mallacoota to the dry woodlands of the Snowy River valley and the coastal heaths. The area dealt with extends from Lakes Entrance across the Snowy River to the NSW border and contains a very wide variety of birds, most of which are common to all of Gippsland but some are special to that area.

Barry presented a large number of slides (mostly borrowed) of birds, arranged in groups, and provided insights into some of their more interesting features.

COMMON BIRDS

The most common bird in Victoria, numerically, is, surprisingly, the Thornbill which is really common in areas of heavy growth - the Brown Thornbill occurring in thick undergrowth and the Striated Thornbill occurring in eucalypt canopy. The White-Browed Scrub Wren is very common in undergrowth and also in gardens amongst the native plants. Everyone's favourite - the Blue Wren. The Grey Fantail - the commonest fly-catcher, widespread in gardens (especially in winter). The Yellow Robin is renowned for its tameness. All of the above birds are widespread throughout a wide range of habitats.

The beautiful Golden Whistler, far outshining the dowdy female. The Crested Shrike-tit - a really lovely bird, fascinating to watch feeding on insects in eucalypt bark. The very beautiful Spotted Pardalote - about half sparrow size, feeds high in the canopy but nests in tunnels in earth banks. The Lyrebird - very shy but also common, partly because it is so adaptable. The Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike has a tiny nest.

Three birds not common but found in many forest habitats in East Gippsland, i.e. East Gippsland "specialities" not found elsewhere in Gippsland. The White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike - a relative of the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, rare outside East Gippsland. The Square-tailed Kite - beautiful in flight; a forest bird, flies just above the canopy and robs other birds' nests. The Glossy Black Cockatoo - a specialist on casuarina seeds, in Victoria restricted to East Gippsland.

HEATH SPECIES

The Beautiful Firetail - a stunning bird with a fiery red rump, sometimes found in forests. The Emu Wren, one of the smallest birds in Australia, is so named because of its tail feathers with widely spaced filaments without barbs, like an emu's. It has a very high-pitched call, difficult for the elderly to hear. The Turquoise Parrot is an East Gippsland anomaly, being typically a bird of the dry woodlands but now found quite commonly in the East Gippsland heathlands after being assumed extinct in the 1920's. The Ground Parrot is a specialist, inhabiting only heath that is burnt regularly - after the heath is about five years old the birds move out; they have a haunting call, climbing the scale. The Chestnut-rumped Heath Wren, also called Hylacola, is a very small bird, quite common but rarely reported

contd p.2....



BIRDS OF EAST GIPPSLAND contd....

because it is so hard to find. The Eastern Bristlebird occurs in Victoria only in East Gippsland.

MOUNTAIN HABITAT BIRDS

Amongst the wet sclerophyll forests and waratahs of Roger River to the Errinundra Plateau are huge forests of very old, large timber which provide homes for a very high number of birds. The White Goshawk and the Grey Goshawk are quite rare ( the same species, different coloured individuals only), but very efficient and fast predators. The Wonga Pigeon, very plump, likes walking rather than flying, very common, typically seen by roadsides picking up seeds. Bell Miners or Bell-birds are very attractive close up though hard to see; they are quite common in West and East Gippsland, but not in Central Gippsland; they are very competitive and aggressive towards other species. The Satin Flycatcher builds a beautiful nest on a horizontal dead branch, some 20 metres above the ground. The King Parrot may be seen in wet sclerophyll forests, and also at times in people's gardens. The Satin Bowerbird decorates its bower with blue objects and is one of the very few birds to use tools - it paints its bower with a stick. The Crescent Honeyeater is a real blackberry lover, and is one of the commonest honeyeaters in wet forests.

RAINFOREST AREAS

Sub-tropical: These small pockets of rainforest occur mainly in gullies, with creepers, vines and lilly pillies predominating, and are not very rich in birds. Brown Warblers are small and indistinct. Black-faced Monarchs, or Flycatchers, are migrants, usually arriving in spring. Lewin's Honeyeater is found near pittosporum (and also in the Morwell National Park).

Cool temperate: Commonly typefied by sassafras under the canopy of tall shining gums, high up in the ranges, especially the Errinundra Plateau; also not very rich in birds. The Large-billed Scrubwren has no distinctive markings; quite common in the wet rainforests. Pink Robins will breed only in dense forests, such as beech or sassafras, often seen in Tarra/Bulga National Park.

DRY WOODLANDS

Following the Snowy River, north from Buchan are very dry woodlands consisting mainly of white box and native pines. The birds here are very different, making their only appearance in Gippsland here. The Fuscous Honeyeater is rather drab and inconspicuous while the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater is quite striking; both sometimes act as foster parents to pseudo-offspring fobbed off by Pallid Cuckoos. The Weebill is a very small bird with, as expected, a very small bill. The Speckled Warbler is a quite striking ground-feeding bird. Brown Treecreepers also often feed on the ground. White-winged Choughs live in large social groups and are very noisy and raucous. Tawny Frogmouths have marvellous camouflage, which they use pretending to be stumps.

NOCTURNAL BIRDS

These are mostly widespread throughout Australia, but some of the larger owls are quite rare - they take live prey and need large areas to forage in, so East Gippsland is quite a stronghold for them.

Barry presented a number of slides of night birds accompanied by taped calls to give some of the atmosphere of calls in the bush. First, the Boobook Owl with a very common call heard by most people, occasionally confused with the Frogmouth - very



BIRDS OF EAST GIPPSLAND ... cont'd.....

most people, occasionally confused with the Frogmouth - very widespread and very adaptable, often in farmlands, eating mostly insects. The Powerful Owl is the largest in Australia, up to two feet (600mm) high, tends to roost in favourite trees, eats animals up to medium-sized brush-tailed possums, has very large disconcerting eyes and gives a slower, deeper call. The Screaming Woman Bird which utters blood-curdling screams also has a much more conventional, barking, call which gives it the identity of the Barking Owl; males and females bark at different pitches, giving out very interesting conversations. They are of intermediate size, eat lots of rabbits and can be quite aggressive. The Sooty Owl has a typically hunched appearance and is generally restricted to rain-forest gullies, especially in East Gippsland. Its call is another screech, known as the "Screaming Bomb" call which carries for three or four kilometres; it has a diverse diet, feeding off the ground as well as in trees. The Masked Owl is the largest of the barn owls, and, although fairly common in Tasmania, the only regular Victorian reportings of its presence are from East Gippsland.

CONCLUSION

For a final slide Barry could not resist showing us a Yellow-bellied Glider representing his current field project on mammals and letting us hear its unearthly call sounding like a motor-mower starting up.

It was a delight to have a former junior member of L.V.F.N.C. back to give us such a well-informed, entertaining and personal insight into a number of our birds.

David Trainor.

Extract from a letter from David Trainor to Barry Traill. 24/10/88

I could give you a long list of the reasons for the delay in completing this project, but the predominant factor was the intense dislike that my tape recorder took to the recording of your lecture. Every time I attempted to listen to it the recorder grabbed the tape, wrapped it around its capstan and refused to disgorge it without being dismembered. You can probably understand why I finished up finding it preferable to find some other way of filling in my time - to the unfortunate detriment of what should have been a quite pleasant, and even enjoyable, duty. Nevertheless, I do offer my apologies.

David Trainor.

---



REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 23, 1988.

Nine members were present.

Finance: balance of \$453.89. Account for payment- Select Office Supplies, \$52.80. Sub.F.N.C.V. 2 years \$46.00. Petty cash Sec. \$50.00

We are pleased that Pam Petschack has taken up the position of Editor. Contact no. 056-331925 or 8 Church St., Trafalgar.

Secretary reported that the 1989 program is looking good. We will hear more later.

January campout. 15 people have booked so far. Please contact Secretary if you would like to attend.

Gippsland Waters Coalition Report from N. Grigg.

M. Marschaleck will obtain key to meeting room and look after the supper requisites. John Mewett available also.

L.R.C. Landscape Committee awaiting report on beautification of approaches and exits of local towns.

We need people to offer to write up meetings and excursions.

Please consider this when the 1989 program is available.

Christmas Breakup December 10. Details to be announced at General Meeting.

Discussion re bus trip excursion to Coolart.

Correspondence: C.C.V. re meeting. M.G.R.M.B. re family day

Nov. 20. P. Rayment gave report. F.N.C.V. re subscription.

V.N.P.A. re books available. Y.M.C.A. re meeting room.

F.N.C.V. re March campout.

Publications: Nature Territory, Environment Victoria, S.G.A.P.

Harpoondah Group Newsletter. Annual Report Coal Corporation Vic.

Boola Boola Reserve: Reported that there has been a car dumped

in the area and Reserve has been logged and burned. A meeting

with C.F.L. arranged about this matter. Signs to be displayed

and workers told about Reserve etc, etc.....

Natural History Medallion presentation attended by invited Club members.

Mr. J. Blucher has been appointed Assistant Conservation Co-ordinator. This will be a great help to Mrs. Thompson.

January meeting will be a Members' Night so look out a small selection of interesting slides or photographs.

Cost of Naturalist to be investigated with the possibility of an increase in the future.

Next Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 1989 at Y.M.C.A. Morwell at 7.30pm.

Supper roster: January 20, 1989 June Lubcke and friend.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Posted submissions on: "Statewide Assessment of Public Land Use"

and "Proposed Recommendations on Mallee Area Review" both to LCC.

With other organisation representatives we attended a meeting with members of the Steering Committee appointed by Mrs. Kirner to advise the Minister on softwood and hardwood plantations.

This meeting was to alert the community to terms of reference of the study, to give us the timetable for submissions and the report and to inform us of the type of information the committee would hope to receive in the submissions. Paper for us to write submissions is due this month and submissions due by the end of January.

With other Club members a census of plants in Wirilda was compiled for the Wirilda Committee. June Lubcke supplied bird lists for the same area.

Collected information about use of Velpar and Lontrel for spraying pine plantations.



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JANUARY 1989

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# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTS

L.V.F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting: Friday, January 20, 1989.  
Members' night. Please bring a small selection of interesting slides or photographs.  
Dial-a-Safari slide talk will also be presented.

Campout: January 27, 28, 29, 1989.  
Traralgon High School Camp, Licola.  
Cost \$6/night.  
Bring your own food, pillows, and sleeping bags/sheets.

March Campout V.F.N.C.A: Labour Day Weekend, March 1989.  
Ocean Grove Uniting Church Camp.  
\$16/day including three meals.

---

Warragul F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

---

Friends of Mt. Worth Park:

Action days 3rd Sunday of the month.  
Contact J. Brooks for details: 056-231563

---

A.C.F. Local Group:

Second Wednesday of month.  
Migrant Resource Centre.  
George St. Morwell.

---



### AMATEUR ASTRONOMY

On August 26, 1988, Chris Stockdale, President of the Latrobe Valley Astronomical Society, spoke to our members on the role of the amateur astronomer in helping the professional astronomer and of the work they are doing in astronomy.

He then went on to speak about it in detail, starting with "What is astronomy?"

This is the science concerned with the observation and interpretation of radiation (ie. light, heat, radio waves and x-rays) received in the vicinity of the earth from the component parts of the Universe.

The role of the amateur astronomer:

1. Aid to the professionals.
2. Comet discovery and observation.
3. Observing and photographing the planets.
4. Observing meteors.
5. Lunar and solar eclipse observations.
6. Observing variable stars.
7. Nova and supernova discoveries and observations.
8. Occultations.
9. Grazing occultations.\*

He then followed this with a number of slides of the moon, Halley's comet's path through our Solar System and graph slides showing Supernova 1987A and Grazing Occultations.\*

Chris finished his talk by telling us something of the other activities of the L.V. Astronomical Society which includes:

Public education

Education of its members

General observations (to know the night sky).

Occultation and satellite timing.

Astrophotography (which is astronomical photography).

Thanks to Chris Stockdale whose notes greatly assisted me in writing this short article.

Marilyn Marschalek.

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### AN EVENING AT THE OBSERVATORY

On Friday November 11, 1988, at 8.30pm five members and two friends met Chris Stockdale and his wife at the L.V. Astronomical Society's Observatory at Coach Road.

It was just becoming dark and the brightest light in the sky was the planet Mars. We could see a spherical shape as Mars is one of the nearer planets to earth.

The moon was a small crescent but we were all quite eager to view the moon and its fascinating formations. We were told that it was better to look at the moon when it was not so bright, as we would have been unable to see so well.

More stars could now be seen and the telescope was pointed at Alpha Centauri, one of the pointers of the Southern Cross. Alpha Centauri is what is known as a double star and we could see two definite stars shining brightly as we looked through the telescope.

cont.p.2.....

AN EVENING AT THE OBSERVATORY cont....

Another planet now in view was Saturn. The rings were evident to all as we climbed the ladder to look into the eyepiece of the telescope. Lots of time was taken up as Chris moved the telescope and ladder in the search for more stars. It was surprising how fast the planets moved as they went out of our view in a very short time.

Jupiter was bright in the sky but near the cloud of water vapour from the Power Station. Nevertheless we still managed to see it through the cloud.

Canopus was a bright star and we were all pleased to observe this particular star. Three satellites were seen as we gazed upwards looking for more things to look at. We were especially impressed with a star cluster which appeared as a giant sparkler.

It was getting much cooler and we had seen quite a few exciting things, so it was then that we thanked Chris for his time and left the area for home.

Lorna Long.

---

WARNING TO BIRD WATCHERS

Let me tell you about an adventure that befell me on the way home from Mirboo recently. I stopped at my roadside plantation to admire the succession of wattles gladdening the winter. Bush rats live in that plantation, the earth is honeycombed with their burrows. Every so often they nibble the roots off one of my trees, underground, so that finally the tree keels over. They are not particular as to species and I have lost some nice things there. Having satisfied myself that the rats are either dormant for winter or gone up to Expo, I changed my shoes and prepared to drive on.

At that moment a huge balloon of starlings came into view, wheeling and diving before a falcon. Being a birdo I dallied. A thousand birds turned as one and came straight at the car, rising slightly to clear it. As they passed, a peculiar sound smote the air, as if a hurricane, accompanied by hail had swept overhead. You've guessed it! The terrified mob were simply raining liquid manure and my clean white car was, in an instant, covered all over but not with sweet violets. Hubcaps, windscreen and all.

I sneaked home hoping no one would recognise me and praying for a shower of rain. It took me half an hour of warm sponging to clean the car. I hope that falcon got a few of them!

Ellen Lyndon.

---



WILD FLOWER EXCURSION OCTOBER 10, 1988

The assembled company left the meeting place with Mr. and Mrs. Thompson as our leaders, two more cars joined us so a total of 13 cars was our convoy.

The first stop was at the Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve, just off the Calignee South Road. This reserve was given in lieu of another which is now in the Loy Yang project. Motorbikes travelled past our cars frequently, as their track is next to the reserve.

We were keen to identify the flowers from our lists given to us, using our skills practised the previous evening, with guidance from Mrs. Thompson. The area was dry but we could still find many flowers. A spectacular show of Curling Everlasting Helichrysum scorpioides greeted us as we walked along the track. Many Waxlip Orchids Glossodia major were found with Milkmaids Burchardia umbellata. Some Diuris longifolia Wallflower Orchid were found as well as many Green-comb Spider-orchids Caladenia dilatata and some seeds of Acianthus.

As we continued our walk more discoveries were made and there were many calls to others to "come and see this" as more exciting flowers were found.

We were particularly delighted with the Fringe-lilies, two species were in the reserve. The Twining Fringe-lily Thysanotus patersonii was plentiful and the more spectacular Common Fringe-lily T. tuberosus, one had four beautiful flowers. There was some common Flat-pea Platylobium obtusangulum and many Bottle Daisies which were deemed to be the Blue Bottle Daisy Lagenophora stipitata even though it was a white flower.

The trees were predominantly Prickly Stringybark E. consideniana and some Messmate E. obliqua. All had blackened trunks as the result of previous fires in the area.

Our journey was then along Calignee South Road passing some Silky Teatree, Leptospermum myrsinoides on the roadside. The lunchtime stop was in the proposed Flora and Fauna Reserve recently suggested by the Land Conservation Council to retain the variety of eucalypt associations in the district.

Some exploration found Golden Grevillea G. chrysophaea and the spectacular Broad-wedge Pea Gompholobium latifolium. The Wattles had finished flowering but we were able to admire the lovely pods, bright in the sunshine.

The Sunshine Wattle, A. terminalis had many pods and we were shown the distinctive glands on the stems. Sweet Wattle A. saueolens had many pods, but the glands were not so prominent.

After this sojourn we travelled by road around two sides of the reserve which is proposed to be 833 hectares

We travelled along Traralgon Creek Road, past Loy Yang and on to Clarkes Road where a floral delight awaited us. There were masses of Yellow Bulbine Lilies, Bulbine bulbosa, with a purple Chocolate Lily Dichopogon strictus and everywhere we walked there were Green-comb Spider Orchids and Brown Beaks Lyperanthus saueolens.

It was nice to see the Small Grasstree Xanthorrhoea minor and more Curling Everlastings. More blue flowers were Black-anther Flax-lily Dianella revoluta and Tall Bluebell Wahlenbergia stricta, with Blue Grass-lily Caesia vittata and a white form of the same. There was a patch of Climbing Apple-berry, Billardiera scandens with its delicate green bells.



WILDFLOWER EXCURSION .....cont

It was then decided that we go to the Low Quality Dam area where we could overlook the area towards Loy Yang Power Station. Here we all enjoyed afternoon tea as we sat on the high bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were thanked for their help during the day and all voted it a most enjoyable day. So ended another excursion with Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists.

Lorna Long.

---

QUESTIONS ASKED ON EXCURSION 29.10.88.

The Yams we looked at on Clarkes Road are correctly called Yam Daisies (Microseris scapigera) and not just Yams. Yams grow in northern Australia and belong to the genera Dioscorea. However for Yam Daisies A.B. and J.W. Cribb in "Wild Food in Australia" state "the fleshy roots were used extensively by the Victorian Aborigines who roasted them". It continues that authors differ as it is reported "the tubers of the Yam Daisy are sweet with a flavour of coconut; while another author suggests that they taste more like a radish than a potato".

How did the Bottle-daisies get their common name? The achene (or seed) of many daisies can have a pappus (like a thistle seed) or a very short pappus or even no pappus at all; but most of them have an even top to the seed itself. The achene of the Bottle-daisies has no pappus but has a neck to one side on the top of the achene like an old-fashioned water-bottle. I imagine this is how these daisies got their common name.

Bon Thompson.

---

BIRD NOTES

From my kitchen window I can see a grevillea dotted all over with red flowers and Spinebills. Crescents are sometimes very vocal along with the Yellow-faces but this is the first season I have been favoured by the Yellow-wings or New Holland Honeyeaters in my part of town. I notice the Wattle-birds are busy courting so spring can't be far away.

Ellen Lyndon.

---

PELICANS AT THE TIP

Taking a load of garden prunings to the Colac tip I was appalled to see, along with the expected seagulls, a considerable number of pelicans happily scrounging amongst the odorous, smoky heaps of garbage.

I don't know if they were a special breed, perhaps a tip pelican, but they were certainly not the same as the immaculately groomed pelicans seen adjoining Lake Colac. Instead their plumage was rather scruffy and appeared quite a dirty yellow.

These vagabonds had a somewhat raffish appearance compared with their dignified compatriots seen soaring over or paddling on the lake.

Looks like there's pelicans and pelicans!

John Mewett.



L.V.F.N.C.AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND CAMPOUT

AT LICOLA. JANUARY 27,28,29, 1989.

This will be held at the Traralgon High School camp at Licola.

Cost is \$6 per night.

B.Y.O. food, pillows and sheets/sleeping bags.

Further details available at the January meeting.

---

VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION  
LABOUR DAY WEEKEND MEETING/CAMPOUT

LOCALITY: Bellarine Peninsula.

ACCOMMODATION: Bunk-style, Ocean Grove Uniting Church Camp,  
\$16/day including three meals. Caravan Parks and  
Hotels in Ocean Grove and surrounding area (please  
book your own).

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: Marine Biology cruise in conjunction with  
Marine Studies Centre personnel, approximately 5 hours on  
Port Phillip and Swan Bays; beach walk, rock-shelf walk,  
mangrove swamps, walk on Edwards Point (botony, birds),  
snorkelling with the seals (optional), discovering the Ocean  
Grove Nature Reserve.

This will be predominantly a "Coastal" weekend with a variety  
of habitats - sea, seashore, rock shelf, mangroves, fresh-  
water lake. This should be a "different" weekend especially  
for inland members. Barbeque lunches (weather permitting).

The day-boat trip and snorkelling with the seals will cost  
approximately \$15 each. For those who are not seafarers, a  
sea shore/mud flat walk or other activity will be arranged.

There will be opportunities to persue many favourite interests-  
birds, plants, marine biology, geology, sea shore etc.

Hosted by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

A final program should be available in early February.

---

Supper roster: January 20, 1989. June Lubcke and friend.

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## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm.on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F.Hanley 9Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon.Treasurer      Mrs A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825.

NATURALIST \$8.00

FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$ 10.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the  
LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
Members of all Clubs and should be addressed to

Hon.Editor  
Mrs. L.Long  
99 Chamberlain Road  
Newborough 3825.

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FEBRUARY 1989

ISSUE No 302



# *Lalrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting: Friday, February 24.  
Speaker: Andrew Teggart and David Francis of  
SEC Rural Services to speak on fire  
control.  
Excursion: Saturday, February 25. Visit an area for  
slow burn with speakers.  
Meeting place: Yallourn W Power Station car park near  
corner of Latrobe Rd. and John Field  
Drive at 10.00 a.m.  
Bring morning tea and picnic lunch.  
Plant census in afternoon after lunch.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, March 6.  
Meeting place: Tyers River Bridge picnic area at 10 am.  
Then on to Senini's Track.

Special excursion:

Bushwalk along old Moe-Walhalla railway line. Two and a half  
hour walk from Erica towards Walhalla.

Leaders: John and Val Larson.  
Date: Sunday, March 12  
Meeting place: Erica Football Ground at 9.45 am.  
Suggest bringing a small bag with a  
drink and a snack.

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WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Contact Secretary for details.

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FRIENDS OF MT. WORTH PARK.

Action days 3rd Sunday of month.  
Contact J. Brooks for details 056-231563

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FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

Contact Yvonne 222597 or P. Bryant 742017 for details.

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A.C.F. LOCAL GROUP.

Meeting: Second Wednesday of month.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
George St., Morwell.



MID-GIPPSLAND RIVERS AWARENESS DAY 20.11.1988

The Mid-Gippsland Catchment Coordinating Group, the Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board and the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands conducted a Family Rivers Awareness Day on Sunday November 20, 1988. In a very full and interesting day's program, a large crowd including many young people had an opportunity to explore the management of the Latrobe River and two of its tributaries, Eaglehawk and Fells Creeks. The Club was officially represented by Jim Blucher and Philip Rayment, and other members also participated.

The day began with a short tour of APM's waste water treatment facilities. Mr Dick McCarthy outlined the Latrobe River Revegetation Project, and the group inspected the extensive 1979 eucalypt revegetation area and the nearby natural lagoon of the river. After passing the aeration pond and settlement pond, we met Mr Mike Haigh, who outlined the operation of the discharge system. Mr Graeme Scarlett, our group's guide, directed our attention to a recent project, the creation of a permanent wetland area from a resumed grazing lease. This work involved the closing of drainage channels, and the area apparently already supports a variety of wading birds.

The second part of the program involved an inspection of a stretch of the Eaglehawk Creek to the north of Glengarry. Massive erosion has occurred at this point, and there is little that can be done to prevent further damage during peak flows, short of water diversion upstream. Some rehabilitation works including plantings of willows on the lower bank levels and the slowing of low flows were noted.

From Eaglehawk Creek, the party travelled to Cowwarr, gathering at the Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board's depot. Excellent displays had been arranged by the day's organisers, water users and the Environment Protection Authority. These displays included a series of aerial photographs of the entire Latrobe River from Yallourn to Lake Wellington showing all proposed sites for restoration or partial restoration of the original course.

The Minister of Water Resources, The Hon. R. Walsh, and the Director-General attended the official luncheon at Cowwarr. This luncheon followed a separate morning's program designed to brief the recently appointed minister on management of the rivers and streams of Central Gippsland. The Minister gave a short address in which he commended the spirit of cooperation among those responsible for management and rehabilitation in the region.

The next part of the program included the official launch of the Fells Creek Landcare Project by Mrs Heather Mitchell, OBE, President of the Victorian Farmers' Federation. This launch took place at one of the sites where extensive rehabilitation work is currently in progress. As a result of enlargement of the catchment of Fells Creek late last century, the channel of the creek was rapidly enlarged, its depth at an early railway bridge having increased from one to five metres even by 1916. The erosion process has of course continued since then, to a point where the area is recognised as one of the worst examples of erosion in the whole catchment. Under the Landcare project, a series of grade control structures have been placed along a particularly badly eroded 9 km. section. These structures function



MID-GIPPSLAND RIVERS AWARENESS DAY 20.11.1988 ...cont.

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by encouraging sediment deposition due to reduced flow velocity. Other works include grading of banks, fencing to exclude stock from the creek frontage and extensive native plantings including swamp paper-barks and other melaleucas on the banks with taller species beyond on higher ground. It is pleasing to note the involvement of the Girl Guide movement in the plantings.

The final activity of a packed day saw the party return to the Latrobe River itself, for an inspection of flood-cut restoration on the property of Mr. Barry Farmer south-east of Glengarry. Works already undertaken on this property have redirected the bulk of normal flows to the longer, original course of the river whilst allowing flood levels to dissipate via the shorter man-made channel. Such operations simultaneously reduce the gradient of the river bed, increase river length and reduce flow velocity. An opportunity to inspect the restored river course from small boats was undertaken by many of the guests.

The organisers of the River Awareness Day are to be warmly commended for a well-conducted and informative program.

Philip Rayment.

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BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

During the windy weather in October, a partially constructed bird's nest was blown to the ground. We were interested in the materials which were used in the nest. Some of it was hairs from the cows, but the rest, which was very soft, appeared to be down from the Capeweed seeds. Capeweed was very plentiful in the paddocks at the time. As there are several species of birds that nest in the garden we do not know which one was building the nest.

Our Cantua plant, the Sacred Flower of the Incas, flowered very well this year providing food for the birds. The long red bells of this plant are about 4 inches long and too long for our honey-eaters to get to the nectar up the bell. Not to be deprived of a feed, the birds make a hole near the calyx of the bell to obtain the nectar. It is usually the New Holland Honey-eater and the Eastern Spinebill who are so enterprising. However this year the Silver Eyes were busy on the plant and until I watched carefully I did not realise they were not hunting for insects but wereafter the nectar too. I expected they were using the holes left by the honey-eaters. However careful observation showed they were making holes themselves. The Crimson Rosellas do not bother with holes but just nip off the nectar section and eat it, leaving the rest of the bell to fall to the ground.

Bon Thompson.



EXCURSION TO COOLART - NOVEMBER 26, 1988

The excursion to Coolart had been arranged by David Stickney, speaker at the previous night's meeting, however due to an indisposition he was unable to join us on the excursion. We all missed David's company but thanks to his organisation we had a most enjoyable day.

We arrived at Coolart by 'mini-bus' about 10.45 am and were greeted by Brian Thomas who looked after us and guided our footsteps while we were at Coolart. Brian contributed greatly to our enjoyment of the day. He had an engaging ability to let you wander at will, yet be there whenever he could be of service. After his friendly welcome he left us free to find a parking spot, enjoy the inevitable quick cuppa, then wander down to the Wetlands Observatory which is situated near the house.

This is a magnificent bird-hide with sweeping views through huge glass windows of the Balnarring flats, the wetlands and the birds. We spent some time watching Sacred Ibis, Black Duck, Chestnut Teal and Purple Swamphens - all so close to us. It was interesting to see two young Swans about ten weeks old in juvenile plumage, also a pair of Hoary-headed Grebes making a nest which looked like a tiny floating island of water-weeds.

The Observatory, completed in 1985, is also used as an auditorium for slide talks and audio-visual presentations. Brian re-joined us here as promised, and after very simply but effectively pulling down blinds to cover the windows, proceeded to screen a video film produced by Graeme Pizzey. Entitled "Australian Birds - Australian Gardens", it was interesting and colourful, showing the relationship between birds and blossoms and plants.

After the film we walked along a path past historic outbuildings to the Minsmere Hide which overlooks the Coolart Lagoon where hundreds of Sacred Ibis nest and raise their chicks in late winter and spring.

As well as the large number of Ibis congregated here there were many other species of waterfowl that use this lagoon as a haven. In addition to the ones previously seen from the Observatory there were Grey Teal, Dusky Moorhens, Royal Spoonbills, Coots, Wood Duck, Little Pied Cormorants, Little Black Cormorants, Pied Cormorants and Straw-necked Ibis. We also noted a Blue-billed Duck and an Australasian Shoveler.

We walked back through the garden with its huge old exotic trees and lawns and cultivated plants to collect our lunches from the bus, then we ate at the tables under the trees. The formal garden combined with the native trees planted around the car park create yet another habitat. Here were Blackbirds, Starlings, Sparrows, Common Mynas, Wattlebirds (both Red and Little), Grey Thrushes, Willie Wagtails and Grey Fantails. A Grey Butcherbird entertained for a few moments with his mellow flute-like calls.

After lunch we returned to the Observatory where Brian treated us to another film, "Introducing Coolart". Availing ourselves also of another opportunity to scan the view from the window, we noted the Grebes still poking importantly around their nest. Then a surprise - a clean, obviously new egg had appeared in the nest! ( Grebe's eggs soon become very dull and stained with brown, but this one looked pure white).



EXCURSION TO COOLART - NOVEMBER 26, 1988 cont....

After leaving the Observatory we quickly inspected the Art Display in the lovely old homestead, then we more or less dispersed to "do our own thing". I joined one of the small groups who opted for the delightful Woodland Walk, which circles around part of the property and passes through several different habitats. Firstly ( and lastly) there are expanses of open grazed paddocks, then on reaching the coastal woodland the track passes a B.O.C. hide. It continues through the woodland along the bank of Merricks Creek (which is really an estuary). Circling on, it passes a salt marsh, then a bridge crosses reed-beds. Heading back towards the car park the N.F.C.S. hide is passed - this gives a splendid view across the wetlands from the opposite side to the Observatory.

We did not add many birds to our list on this rather brisk walk (for alas, we could not linger) but there were Magpies, Silver Gulls, Silvereyes, Goldfinches, Striated Thornbills, a Yellow-faced Honeyeater, a New Holland Honeyeater, Brown Thornbills and a Swamp Harrier.

Back at the car park it was "all aboard" for the trip home. The rain which had held off during the day then began to fall. We, however, snug and on our homeward way, reviewed our list of 47 species of blrds and all the other lovely things we had seen at Coolart, and considered that we had enjoyed a very happy day.

June Lubcke

---

RED WATTLE BIRDS

I like watching thunderstorms.

We have a pair, even a family, of Red Wattle-birds frequenting our garden (and vigourously defending it against any interloping llynahs).

Unconnected statements? No.

A thunderstorm was threatening. The clouds were gathering over towards Baw Baw. I'd gone up to the garage, parked my seat a few feet inside, opened both doors and settled back to enjoy the Son et Lumiere.

You know the situation. Still. Dark. Oppressive. A few heavy spots of rain.

A Wattle-bird flew through the scene framed in the doorway... West to East. Left to right. And another. And another. 1,2,3,.....25. Not another bird (species) moved or spoke (sang? called?).

Think "Are those two birds doing circuits?"

Get up. Walk to doorway. Look right to gum tree. ( Tut, Tut Gordon - Eucalypt, Eucalypt. Sheds bark once a year).

What species?

Well, it's the species that's got 15 Red Wattle-birds in it just before the storm breaks.

Can anyone suggest where the birds came from, and why, of all the species we have around, they should be the only one to flock together, or even be active at the time?

Gordon Stewart.



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ARTICLES NEEDED!

The "Naturalist" depends on contributions to keep it going. A glance at the above index from 1988 shows how much was written for the "Naturalist" by members of the L.V.F.N.C and other Clubs.

More material is needed for 1989, and contributions are invited on any aspect of natural history.

Please send any articles to:

Hon. Editor,  
Pam Petschack,  
8 Church St.,  
Trafalgar. 3824.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc. will be held on Friday March 17, 1989 at 7.30 p.m.

Elections: The following offices will be declared vacant.

President: 2 year term. At present Miss J. Purbrick.

Assistant Secretary: 2 year term. Mrs Marschalek has indicated her intention to resign.

Vice President No. 1: 2 year term. Mr. J. Wall is not seeking re-nomination.

Please give some thought to the above positions. Nominations to be with the Secretary by Thursday March 9, 1989.

Please note: The A.G.M. is on Friday March 17, the 3rd Friday in the month as Easter occurs the following weekend.

---

NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion: That membership fees be increased to:

Naturalist only	\$10 per year
Family subscription	\$20 per year (incl. Naturalist)
Single subscription	\$15 per year ( <u>incl.</u> Naturalist)

Moved J. Wall/O. Thompson.

This Notice of Motion is for the information of all members, for them to consider and to vote upon at the A.G.M. on Friday, March 17, 1989.

---

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

Nomination form for Office.

I wish to nominate .....  
of.....for the position  
of.....of this Club.

Proposer.....

Seconder.....

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the above office

Signed.....

This nomination form to be in the hands of the Secretary by Thursday, March 9, 1989.





REPORT OF THE LVFNC COMMITTEE MEETING ON 18/1/89

---

Nine members present.

Business arising from the minutes: Licola campout discussed. Christmas party at "Bundilla". A successful and enjoyable day with Kath and Andy Ringin, despite downpours. VFNCA campout, Labour Day weekend, 11-13 March, on Bellarine Peninsula.

January meeting:

Dial-a-Safari with Terri Patroni and Jim Montgomery. A 20 min slide presentation. Members' slides as well.

February meeting:

Friday, February 24-Andrew Teggart and David Francis of SEC Rural Services will give a session on fire control.

Saturday, February 25-Visit, inspect and list plants in area for slow burn, possibly in late March, with above personnel.

Finance:

Bank balance: \$292.72

Passed for payment:-Coolart refunds(entrance concessions) \$16.80

Phone account for quarter to 31/12/88 \$38.00, L.V.Printers (typing cassette) \$11.50.

Magazine fees and subscriptions: The Treasurer prepared estimates for Club income and expenditure for 1989. They were examined under two headings-magazine and general.

Because of overall increased costs, and the fact that costs ran over the 1988 budget, it will be necessary for members to consider new charges from 31/3/89.

Recommended: That the "Naturalist" only be:\$10 p.a.

Family subscription be: \$20 p.a.

Single subscription be: \$15 p.a.

Note: Membership includes the cost of the "Naturalist".

A Notice of Motion to be published in the February "Naturalist" and presented at the February meeting.

Members will be asked to vote on the motion at the AGM on 17/3/89.

Correspondence:

IN - ACF- Green pages update, Australian Democrats - Re Greenhouse concerns and "Greenhouse Action" Seminar on 21/2/89, Aerosol Packers-Ozone safe products, CCV-request for direct member contact and minutes of GM 21/11/88, City of Moe-1989 Funday, March 5, Mt. Evelyn Progress Assoc.-"Mt.Evelyn's Original Garden" (book), Dial-a-Safari - Advice of presentation 20/1/89, Sky Visuals-Film "White Dog Dingo", DSIR (New Zealand)-back issues. Periodicals: Australian Ranger Bulletin, Clematis Dec 88, FONMP Nov 88, Geelong Naturalist Nov 88, SGAP Nov 88, Vic Naturalist Sep-Dec 88, The Weta May, Nov 88, June 87.

OUT - VNPA-return of 1989 sample, Baw Baw Girl Guides-1989 program, B. & O. Thompson-thanks, J.Wall-Dial-a-Safari Presentation.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

DSIR, NZ: Club to send list of missing back issues of "The Weta".  
CCV request for direct member contact: Club will not supply mailing list but will table additional copies of material for members at monthly meeting.





REPORT OF LVFNC COMMITTEE MEETING ON 18/1/89 cont....

General Business:

Assistant Secretary: H.Marschalek wishes to resign from this position, but will continue as supper co-ordinator and will open the Ed. Centre for meetings.

Write-ups for 1989: Circulate program on Friday.

Warragul Gazette Nov 29: Statement attributed to L.V.Field Nats who "have discovered that there are distinct species of plant life that exist only in Water Catchment area" in letter by C.Thompson of Trafalgar was incorrect and not made by Club.

Conservation Co-ordinators' Report:

Letter to Keith Turnbull Research Institute re Weeds in Native Vegetation.

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists misquoted in Warragul Gazette 29/11/88 re Trafalgar Catchment.

Census of plants in Boola Boola Reserve and the area on western side of road.

Also met with officers of Shire of Narracan and CFL, Jon Neville of Dept. of Planning and the Environment and John Larson re work on Reserve.

Message from new Minister, Ms Kay Setches, re Flora and Fauna Guarantee.

Letter from Ms. K.Setches re paper on reforestation of Strzelecki Ranges.

Letter from executive office, Nick Legge of State Plantations Impact Study re paper on reforestation of Strzelecki Ranges. Presented draft on State Plantations Impact Study submission. Final draft of consultant's plan for Morwell East O/B dump is out for comment.

Work progressing favourably on Morwell West O/B dump.

The treatment of Yallourn Open Cut "Blue Lagoon" area is very good.

Guidelines for L.V. tree planting re fire protection out for comment.

Next meeting February 22, 1989 at YMCA rooms, Morwell at 7.30 pm.

---

GREENHOUSE ACTION SEMINAR

The Australian Democrats have organised a seminar on the Greenhouse Effect on:

Tuesday, February 21, 1989, at 7.30 p.m.

AT South Yarra Library, 338 Toorak Rd.

Further details available from the Secretary.

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Supper roster: February 24. Norma Rees and Mary Huxley.

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## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G. Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O. Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D. C. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWIARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon. Treasurer.      Mrs A. Stewart  
P.O. Box 169  
Newborough 3825.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
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Hon. Editor  
Mrs. L. Long  
99 Chamberlain Road  
Newborough 3825.

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MARCH 1989

ISSUE No 303



# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTSLatrobe Valley FNC Inc.

Meeting: Friday March 17 at 7.30 pm.  
Speaker: A.G.M and film.  
Excursion: Saturday March 18. Margaret Rowe: Rock pool area.  
Meet 9.45 am at the Environment Centre, Esplanade,  
Inverloch for morning tea. E. and O. Brewster  
will lead a bush walk at 10. am. Lunch at 11.30  
and then visit to rock pool area with Margaret  
Rowe at 12.45 to catch low tide. Leave by 3 pm.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday April 3.  
Meeting place: 10 am opposite Gormandale Hall for excursion  
to White Woman's Waterhole.

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Warragul F.N.C. Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

March 11. Bi-annual Friends Conference, Grampians Nat.Park.  
March 18. Yinnar South Country Fair.  
March 19. Billy's Creek Jumbuk Rd. access track - walk  
down track and pull weeds. Meet at Foster's  
Gully.

Activities are conducted on the third Sunday of the month  
commencing at 1.30 pm.

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Friends of Mt. Worth Park.

Action days third Sunday of the month.  
Contact J.Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

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A.C.F. Local Group

Meeting: Second Wednesday of month.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
George St., Morwell.



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SUPPLEMENT TO LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

The Club thanks you for your support and looks forward to your continued membership for 1989-90.  
Subscriptions to March 31, 1990 become due on March 31, 1989.

Herewith remittance for annual subscription.

<u>NATURALIST ONLY</u>	\$10	FAMILY	\$20
		SINGLE	\$15

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P.O. Box 169  
Newborough 3825 Vic.

If you are already financial for 1989-90 please disregard this notice.

You are deemed to be unfinancial if fees are not paid within three months.

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JANUARY WEEKEND AT LICOLA

Fifteen members enjoyed the weekend. The weather was not as hot as in the Latrobe Valley. Although the high country was drier than we expected, the flowers were plentiful in certain areas. On the airstrip the scene of Orange Everlastings and Showy Podolepis with an ancient Snow Gum and the distant mountains as a back drop prompted most of the photographers into action. Willowherbs were plentiful and two Gentians were found in full bloom. In this area, fenced against stock, the flowers were much more plentiful than those outside the fence. In a manmade dam tadpoles and little green frogs abounded; the frogs appeared to be leaving the water for the land. As we think they belonged to the same family as Tree Frogs this was not really surprising. Before leaving the airstrip we walked extra metres retracing our steps in search of a lens cap which was ultimately found at the fence near the cars.

On to Bryce's Gorge Lookout where there was a lengthy discussion on which mountain was which. Here one member commented on the "Ragwort" with its yellow flowers looking delightful in the sun. The "Ragwort" was the Clustered Everlasting. Also here the Green Leek-orchid looked similar to Sutton's Leek-orchid but the difference in the tongue was noted and so Prasophyllum brainei was identified. The return journey found a tree across the road. It must have fallen during the day. The men managed to clear sufficient space for the traffic.

The second day was spent going to Mt. Skene Lookout. All members agreed the parklike Commissioner's Block of Woollybuts was a perfect example of what those mountain forests were in the past. We felt our Club correspondence on this block should be followed up to assure the block's preservation.

On Connor's Plain we found the red Star-fish fungi, so called because of its spreading paired arms. This fungi belongs to the Stinkhorn group and has a spore-containing slime at its centre. The fungi exudes an odour like decaying flesh and the spores are scattered by blowflies attracted to the smell. The photographers were attracted by its beauty. A lady member was sufficiently alert to find a good "plumb" axe left in the forest. Much skullduggery took place over the positioning of a calf's skull as an insignia on one car.

At Mt. Skene Lookout members who were new to the area were impressed to be on top of the Great Dividing Range with its magnificent views both ways. The direction indicator helped to name the surrounding mountains; although after much discussion, it was thought that due to some freak of nature the indicator and the mountains didn't agree. The mountains had rotated several degrees from their indicated positions.

Returning from Mt. Skene it was disconcerting to round a bend and be faced by a big black bull and just where the road had a precipitous drop on the outside. We were concerned for other drivers who may be using the road at night. This day also provided concern as one car's petrol tank registered just over a quarter full on leaving camp. Unfortunately unleaded petrol is not sold in Licola. However the petrol gauge showed just under a quarter full on return to camp.

On the first night at camp there was a midnight visitor which feasted on two apples and some bread left on a table. After examining the scats, tooth-marks and the window that had been left



## JANUARY WEEKEND AT LICOLA cont.....

slightly open, it was decided our visitor was a ring-tailed possum. Another visitor was a goanna which ambled across the yard slowly enough to be photographed and then flopped, like a dog, in the shade under a tree.

One naturalist was not impressed with the presentation of a live Christmas Beetle on the meal table and failed to appreciate its beauty.

The Walkie-talkie was used to locate two wandering members who had strayed out of hearing of the group on Mt. Tamboritha. The machines would have been used again, had the leader, straggling behind, switched it on. As it was the organiser had to retrace his route to be sure the errant members were only botanising and not really in trouble. Apologies were accepted graciously.

The mechanical chores were achieved by the queue of four men studying for their generator-operator and instructor diplomas. These included the initial "teacher". Each "pupil" became "teacher" the next evening. The mark of a fresh graduate was membership of the Black Hand Gang. Future campers should be warned to leave the water-pump shed as soon as the pump starts so as to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

All present voted it an excellent weekend and congratulated the organiser on his guidance and his effective delegation of duties.

The Whole Gang.

## ALPINE AND SUB-ALPINE FLOWERS

While many of the flowers seen on the Licola weekend have been recorded previously in this magazine I would like to mention a few that created extra interest this year.

The Green Leek-Orchid - Prasophyllum brainei - is not on the Club list although it was thought to have been seen up there before. It was the White Leek-orchid at Bryce's Gorge Lookout. The base of the column is a much lighter red than the maroon of a similar Leek-orchid - Prasophyllum suttonii - and the tip of the tongue is exposed. In fact the tongue is arranged in the shape of an S. Also the flower spike tapers to a point rather than being flat on the top.

Two Willowherbs, the Mountain Willowherb - Epilobium gunnianum - and the Robust Willowherb - Epilobium billardierianum - were plentiful.

The tall seed-pods of the Common Bird-orchid - Chiloglottis gunnii - and the Green Bird-orchid - C. cornuta - showed how the seeds of these low-growing orchids are scattered.

The cotula, which looked like a tiny short billybutton, was the Alpine Cotula - Cotula alpina. The mint that looked similar to Pennyroyal was the Forest Mint - Mentha laxiflora.

The little blue daisies at the airstrip may have been Brachycome radicans the Marsh-daisy. The botanical name for the Royal Bluebell is Wahlenbergia gloriosa, very apt for such lovely deep blue flowers. The trigger plants - Stylidium graminifolium - were the usual deep pink form of the alpine areas and the Alpine Celery - Aciphylla glacialis - was again present on the airstrip.

The "Ragwort" of Connor's Plain was Senecio linearifolius, the Fireweed Groundsel, with its broad flat clusters of small golden daisies and its strongly toothed leaves. The little low pink flowers found near the dam on the airstrip was the Sandspurry - Spergularia rubra. The flowers were five petalled with the sepals showing between the petals. The leaves were in bundles at intervals along the stems. Through the eye-glass the whole plant was covered with glandular hairs.



WIRILDA PROJECT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89

During the past year the Wirilda Committee has met regularly, and with the support of our part-time ranger, Chris Peck, some progress has been achieved.

Vandalism and illegal shooting etc. has been almost eliminated with the erection of an entrance gate which is locked at night.

Maintenance on the walking track along the river is ongoing and a new track joining up with the pipeline road provides an alternative return to the picnic area.

Voluntary work promised by the Apex Club and a walking club is expected to improve the river walking track as far as W.3. Road at the old lime kiln.

The ranger carries out maintenance on the five houses on the property as well as the picnic area.

A second-hand tractor and slasher has been purchased to assist in grass control.

Blackberries and ragwort are an ever-present problem and some control work in conjunction with C.F. and L. has been carried out.

Road, drainage and other work has been done by the Traralgon Shire and L.V.W.S.B. around the storage shed etc.

Last year the Victorian Government promised \$25,000 for the preparation of management plans and steps have been taken to take advantage of the grant when it becomes available.

O. Thompson.

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CENTRAL GIPPSLAND LAND PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89

I attended four meetings of the C.G.L.P.A.C. during the past year. Although few in number these meetings usually extend from 10 am through to 3 or 4 pm.

Incorporated within these meetings were two field trips; one to look at disused railway land, soil erosion, tree planting and weed problems in the Eastern area of the region from Toongabbie to Stratford.

The other trip to the west took in the area between Earl's Rd., Trafalgar South and Narracan mainly to view weed control, re-forestation and rural subdivision.

The committee comprises representatives from Conservation, Forests and Lands, landholders, government authorities and community organisations, so many wide ranging topics and problems are dealt with.

Triennial elections for the committee are due to be held in April and owing to the amalgamation of the two regions last year, Warragul and Traralgon, the new committee will be reduced in number with four in total from community and authorities instead of six as at present.

O. Thompson.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1988-89

It seems to have been another exciting year for L.V. Field Naturalists Inc. and it also seems no time at all since I was sitting down wondering what to write in my last report. They say time flies when you're having fun!

Once again a big thank you to our secretary, Mrs. Trainor who, in her second year, has taken a load off my shoulders, and who was assisted this year by Mrs. Marschalek. Thank you to you both and also to Mrs. Trainor for her advice and support.

I am very grateful to Mr. Wall, who in his third year as Vice-President No.1 has been invaluable in his support. Jim will not be renominating so I thank you for your hard work over all of the last three years. There are many times I had to ask you to stand in for me, both at meetings and representing the Club at special week-day events. Thank you also for your tremendous efforts with the Latrobe Landscape Consultative Committee. Jim wishes to relinquish this position also, so our new committee will be looking to appoint another Club representative after the AGM.

Thank you to all the other members of the Executive for their hard work during the year, especially Treasurer, Mrs. Stewart, Conservation Co-ordinator, Mrs. Thompson, this year assisted by Mr. Grigg and Mr. Blucher, and Publicity Officer, Mr. Mewett, for his excellent reports which always appear in the local papers and on radio. A very big thank you to Mrs. Long who, after 18 years' sterling service as Magazine Editor, stood down during the year. We are very grateful to Mrs. Petschack for taking over this position and for her fine effort in getting the last two editions out early due to the early AGM.

In addition I wish to thank all the other people involved in producing and distributing the Magazine - typing, printing, collating, folding, addressing and mailing. The Magazine's high standard has continued to be noticed in high places and it is still very much sought after by libraries, universities and Government Departments, both in Australia and overseas.

Thank you also to our Morwell Overburden and Rehabilitation Consultative Committee Representative, Mr. Blucher; Conservation, Forests and Lands Management Committee Representative, Mr. Thompson, who also represents us on the Wirilda Progress Association; leader of the Bird Group, Mrs. Lubcke and our Sticker Secretary, Mrs. Plant. Mr Thompson is up for re-election on the C.F.L. Committee shortly after our AGM and we wish him well.

Our Christmas break-up at Dundilla and camp-out at Licola were again very successful, in spite of the down-pour at the earlier event. Sincere thanks to all those people who assisted in the running of both of these and a very big thank you once again to Mr. and Mrs. Ringin for the use of their beautiful property for the break-up.

Contrary to the previous years, all of our 1988 speakers were able to attend as programmed and we once again had a very interesting and varied program. Thank you to those speakers from within our own Club who contributed and also led us on several excursions. Subjects covered included butterflies, plant reproduction, trade and possession of wildlife, Gippsland Rivers, Grampians, Flinders Ranges, salinity, astronomy, plant keys and birds, taking us to Eltham, Inverloch, Latrobe and Thomson Rivers, Morwell National Park, Lake Wellington, Astronomical Society Observatory, Coolart and bushland areas around the Latrobe Valley. Speakers included Michael Braby, Sid Cowling, Ross Scott, Ken Harris, Neville Penrose, Chris Stockdale, Bon and Ollie Thompson and David Stickney. We also had a joint excursion in October with Bairnsdale FNC to Holey



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1988-89 cont....

Plain's State Park.

It has also been a sad year for the Club with the passing of three of our members. Mrs. Crane, a foundation member, Mrs. Beryl Matthews and Mrs. Nora Matthews, all long remembered for their friendship and contribution to our Club.

We have a great program to look forward to in 1989 and I wish the Club all the best for the next 12 months.

Jane Purbrick, President.

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REPORT ON THE LATROBE LANDSCAPE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

I have represented the L.V.F.N.Club during 1988 on the Latrobe Landscape Consultative Committee which is incorporated in the L.R.C.

During the year we have had many discussions on the landscaping of the Latrobe Valley, especially the entrances and exits of the main municipalities plus the highway avenue aspect.

Guidelines have been laid down for the implementation of avenue planting and suggested treatments of approach roads and some of the major problems have been considered such as:- overhead wires, root damage to footpaths etc.

A Latrobe Region Landscape Strategy was produced to improve the Region's image and the quality of the visual environment. This was done after Professor Rattray's Landscape Study.

The Government has responded generously for financial support and grants have been given to some municipalities to undertake landscape improvement work for this year.

It has been proposed that the Latrobe Region organise and host an Australian National Tree Festival and if the initial festival is a success it will be held on a regular basis.

A study has been recorded through photography and displayed in the major municipalities for comments by the public.

The Committee works in close liason with local councils and various government bodies.

J. Wall.

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BIRD RECORDING OFFICER'S REPORT

The "first Monday of the month" Bird Observing excursions continue to maintain an enthusiastic band of supporters. During the year excursions were to Trafalgar Reserve, Cowwarr Weir, Blue Rock Dam, Morwell National Park, Crinigan Rd. Reserve, Wirilda, E. Hunter Reserve, Moondarra Dam, Tyers area and Darlimurla. There was also a special mid duck-shooting season Waterfowl Survey excursion on April 16, 1988.

Two species were added to the Morwell National Park bird list- both rather rare for this area. A Brush Cuckoo was observed by Ken Harris in the Foster's Gully area on October 22, 1988, and Brown Warblers were seen by myself near Lyndon's Clearing on September 11.

Little Wattlebirds visited Mary Huxley's garden at Narracan in September, and Elsie Coggan reported several sightings of a male Red-capped Robin on the south side of Lake Narracan during mid-May.



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BIRD RECORDING OFFICER'S REPORT cont....

Club members assisted in the annual Waterfowl Survey on behalf of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands on February 4, 1989.

June Lubcke.

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CRINIGAN ROAD RESERVE REPORT, 1989

Crinigan Rd. Reserve has been in part limbo for the last 12 months until I received some good news in the last few days.

Our Chairperson, Cr. Gloria Auchterlonie, has been very sick, and has not been able to call a meeting to discuss our problems. I might add, the people who have been given a permit to build a private hospital on the land, between Maryvale Rd. and the western boundary of the Crinigan Rd. Reserve, have applied, and been given an area of 2.333 hectares on the south-west boundary of the Crinigan Rd. Reserve.

In compensation, they are giving the Crinigan Rd. Reserve 3.00 hectares of land on the north-west corner of their land, which joins our boundary in that area. We will lose some bush for some scrub land.

I moved about a dozen orchids that were growing in one area that we were going to lose. They were Diuris longifolia and D. maculata.

We have had the fire-breaks all slashed just prior to Christmas, and I helped an employee of the Shire to spray the blackberries in early February which are getting fewer each year.

Now the good news that we have been waiting for has just come through.

Some six months ago, just before the State Election, Mrs. Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, told us she was going to give us \$24,000 to improve the facilities of the Reserve. Six months went by, nothing more was heard, even after several enquiries, until this last week when I heard from the Morwell Shire Engineer that the monies were now available.

We called a meeting for the last day of February, and with the Shire Engineer, Mr. G. Richie present, with a list of ideas of how we might best spend the monies. I am pleased to say that after a general discussion on several projects put forward, the Shire Council agreed it would go ahead with the works, which I am sure will make the Reserve look more appealing.

E.T.C.Lubcke.

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ELLEN LYNDON O A M

It was with great pleasure we learned on Thursday, January 26 that our friend Mrs. Ellen Lyndon of Leongatha was awarded the OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia).

The citation read "For service to the community, local history and conservation".

Mrs. Lyndon has been a tireless worker for all the above causes for the whole of her lifetime. She is a member of F.N.C.V. for many years and a foundation member of L.V.F.N.C. and a member of the South Gippsland Conservation Group. She is also an active member of the Leongatha Historical Society.

Many National Parks and Reserves owe their being to the efforts



ELLEN LYNDON O A M cont...

of Mrs. Lyndon. Everyone who knows Ellen Lyndon will I am sure offer congratulations, and there is no more deserving recipient of the OAM.

Another member of L.V.F.N.C. to receive an award was Mrs. Val Plant of Traralgon. She was announced Traralgon's Citizen of the Year on Thursday, January 26.

Val has been interested in history, being Secretary of Traralgon Historical Society since 1963 and has been Secretary/Treasurer of the "Red Cross Calling" Door knock for the past eight years.

We offer congratulations to Val for this honour bestowed upon her by the City of Traralgon.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc. will be held on Friday, March 17, 1989 at 7.30 pm.

Elections: The following offices will be declared vacant.

President: 2 year term. At present Miss. J. Purbrick.

Assistant Secretary: 2 year term. Mrs. Marschalek has indicated her intention to resign.

Vice President No. 1: 2 year term. Mr. J. Wall is not seeking re-nomination.

Please give some thought to the above positions. Nominations to be with the Secretary by Thursday, March 9, 1989.

Please note: The AGM is on Friday, March 17, the 3rd Friday in the month as Easter occurs the following weekend.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion: That membership fees be increased to:

<u>Naturalist only</u>	\$10 per year
Family subscription	\$20 per year (incl. Naturalist)
Single subscription	\$15 per year ( <u>incl.</u> Naturalist)

Moved J. Wall/O. Thompson.

This Notice of Motion is for the information of all members for them to consider and to vote upon at the AGM on Friday, March 17, 1989.

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REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 22/2/89

10 members present. One apology.

Licola Campout - a very enjoyable weekend. Thanks to all concerned.

Next month AGM and General Meeting March 17, 7.30 pm.

Film from State Film Centre - to be selected. Projectionist -- J.Parker.

Excursion March 18: Meet 9.45 am at the Environment Centre, Esplanade, Inverloch for morning tea. E.& O. Brewster to lead a bush walk at 10 am. Lunch at 11.30 am and then visit to rock pool area with Margaret Rowe at 12.45 to catch the low tide. Leave about 3 pm.

Finance: Balance \$221.42. Accounts passed for payment - photocopying \$6.64, publicity \$27.50, Education Centre \$20, Conservation expenses \$231.55, postage \$75.

Correspondence: Australian Bicentennial Authority - thanks for participating and certificate.

FOMNP Newsletter and 1989 activities.

Dept. CFL and Narracan Landcare Group - invitation to attend launch of Narracan Landcare Project 4/3/89.

Letter of thanks from John Crane, son of Honor Crane.

Letter from Elaine Braby re Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Letter to Ellen Lyndon as recipient of Order of Australia Medal.

All other correspondence was also tabled.

Audit of books: Mr. David Davies will assist the Club with the annual audit.

General Business of interest:

"Citizen of the Year Award - Senior Section". This Traralgon award given to Val Plant. Our congratulations.

Ada Tree: Official opening by Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands on Sunday April 9, 11 am probable time. Gather at Neerim South at 9 am.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Wet lands between two bridges on highway at Morwell. Contacted Shire of Morwell Landscape Architects suggesting they consider the wetland as a suitable entrance to Morwell. Contacted Mr. Fletcher, Morwell Water Board, re their approach to a wetland area. He doubted feasibility of project now RCA has constructed another road in the area. We will now take project to Latrobe Landscape Consultative Committee to try to obtain engineering opinion on project.

Paul Devlin, SEC, requires plant list for bush block at Sayers Trig Point.

Submission on Central Gippsland Forests - Planning their Future.

Submission on State Plantations Impact Study.

Submission on Gippsland Lakes Strategy Draft Document - draft ready.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday March 15 at 7.30 pm in YMCA rooms, Morwell.

Members interested in Club business are welcome to attend these meetings.

Supper roster: March 17. Val Larson and Florence Blucher.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G. Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

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COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.

Meeting: Friday April 28 at 7.30pm  
Speaker: Joan Vincent to talk on Birds  
Excursion: Saturday April 29.  
Meet 10.00am at Lake Guthridge car park, Sale,  
near the Police Station for morning tea.  
Ranger Peter Lawrence will join us.  
There are walking tracks, bird lists are  
available and area is non-hunting.  
Bring wet weather footwear and lunch.

Bird Group:-

Meeting: Monday May 1  
Meeting place: 10.00am at Traralgon South sign on Traralgon  
South Road for excursion to Traralgon South area.

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Warragul F.N.C. Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

April 16 Remove rubbish from Billy's Creek.  
Meet at the end of Tebb Ter. at 1.30pm  
May 21 Track maintenance and clearing in Billy's Creek  
(Zig Zag Track).  
Meet at the end of Tebb Ter. at 1.30pm.

---

Friends of Mount North Park.

Action days are the third Sunday of the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056-231563

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A.C.F. Local Group

Meeting: Second Wednesday of the month.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
George St., Morwell.

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## A DRIVE TO THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS - FEBRUARY 14, 1989

We woke soon after 4 am to hear a thunderstorm and light rain falling, which continued till about 7 am. Our hopes of making our mountain trip fell to zero. However, by the planned starting time, 8.45 am, the weather looked better and we set off. The drive through Yackandandah, Tawonga, Mount Beauty, Bogong Village and Falls Creek was so beautiful that I felt the trip was worthwhile before we arrived at the High Plains. As we climbed, the trees changed from Narrow-leaved Pepper-mint, Eucalyptus radiata, and Blue Gums, E. globulus, to the noble Mountain Ash, E. regnans, and Candlebark, E. rubida. We glimpsed many lovely views of the blue mountains with white clouds drifting over them. At last the timber petered out, except for the Snow Gums, E. pauciflora. How picturesque they are with their great butts spread wide to bear the weight of winter snows and their branches twisted, curved and bent, but always beautifully marked in green, grey, cream, white and pink. Even Snow Gums are very sparse on the High Plains where the vegetation consists of low shrubs and bushes, heaths, ferns and mosses of great variety.

We stopped at the signpost to Wallace's Hut and walked along a lovely 150 metre track, stopping many times to look at the abundance of flowering bushes and smaller wildflowers. The daisies were most abundant - mauve, white and sometimes a mixture of both, eg. Dusty Daisy, Olearia phlogopappa. We found a little stream edged with Candle Heath, Richea continentis, Mud Pratia, Pratia surrepens, the lovely Sky Lillies, Herpolirion novaezelandiae, and many other small flowered treasures. The birds were not plentiful, but here we saw several Flame Robins and a Pardalote.

At Wallace's Hut, for some of us our first sight of a cattlemen's hut, we went in and admired the strong snow gum posts, the huge fireplace and the sleeping bunks built of wooden slabs. The hut was built in 1889, just 100 years ago. It was built originally of split Snow Gum and Woolly Butt (Alpine Ash), Eucalyptus delegatensis. While the Snow Gums were near at hand, the Woolly Butts grew on the lower slopes. The Woolly Butt for the roof shingles was brought up 400 yards east through scrub and down a gully to a branch of the Big River, where the shingles were cut and brought up by pack horse to the hut site. They are still in place but have been roofed over with iron to preserve them. In 1967 Wallace's Hut was classified as Category C by the National Trust. We signed the visitor's book, kept in a tin box, and left everything as we found it, as asked in the notice in the hut. The Yarrawonga Scouters' Club has accepted unofficial responsibility for the hut and its maintenance.

Our next stop was for lunch under the biggest spreading Snow Gum we'd seen. On a sheltered slope nearby we found dozens of bright magenta Triggers, Stylidium graminifolium; there had been hundreds. We found the pretty little Showy Violet, Viola betonicifolia, hugging a granite rock, and many spreading plants of Ivy Goodenia, G. hederacea.

At Langford's Gap we saw large patches of Alpine Everlasting,

cont p.2.....



## A DRIVE TO THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS cont.....

Helichrysum alpinum, and Lattice Everlasting, H. hookeri.

Our last stop on the High Plains was by a large Sphagnum bog where Silver Daisies, Celmisia asteliifolia, and Mountain Gentians, Gentianella diemensis, were flowering. We were delighted to find a patch of Carpet Heath, Pentachondra pumila, with tiny white starry flowers scattered over dark leaves and bright squat little red berries in groups or singly where flowers had seeded. We found both the alpine Leek Orchids, Prasophyllum alpinum, and P. suttonii - the Mauve Leek-orchid. On patches of mud grew tiny "Fairies Aprons" with hardly any stems. They have such an ugly name - Tasmanian Bladderwort, Utricularia monanthos.

The roadsides were bordered in many places with Alpine Mint Bush, Prostanthera cuneata, with its large white flowers with a hint of mauve. So many lovely things and lovely scenes we have stored away in our memories for many days to come! It is not possible to list all the wildflowers we saw, so I shall note a few of the commonest or prettiest ones we identified. First place must go to the Daisies.

Silver Daisy - Celmisia asteliifolia  
 Dusty Daisy - Olearia phlogopappa  
 Snow Daisy - Brachycome nivalis  
 Bogong Daisy-bush - Olearia frostii  
 Yam Daisy - Microseris scapigera  
 Scaly Buttons - Leptorhynchus squamatus  
 Button Everlasting - Helichrysum scorpioides  
 Alpine Podolepis - Podolepis robusta  
 Alpine Groundsel - Senecio pectinatus  
 Alpine Everlasting - Helichrysum alpinum  
 Lattice Everlasting - Helichrysum hookeri  
 Alpine Baeckea - Baeckea gunniana  
 Tasman Flax Lily - Dianella tasmanica (with its purple berries)  
 Yellow Kunzea - Kunzea ericifolia  
 Rusty Pods - Hovea longifolia  
 Alpine Oxylobium - Oxylobium alpestre  
 Prickly Starwort - Stellaria pungens  
 Ivy-leaf violet - Viola hederacea  
 Tall Rice-flower - Pimelea ligustrina  
 Australian Carraway - Oreomyrrhis criopoda  
 Shiny Cassinia - Cassinia longifolia  
 Variable Groundsel - Senecio laetus

These are but some of the flowers we saw and many more had gone to seed, so we hope to go in January next year. Altogether we had a wonderful day, seeing many plants we had only seen in pictures previously.

May Galbraith,  
 Beechworth.

Long time members of L.V.F.N.C. learned of the death of Mrs. M. Swanink in February. She was a member for many years, enjoying excursions and camp outs in that time.

Nine members attended the service at Hoe Presbyterian Church on Monday February 20. Our thoughts go to her husband and family in their bereavement.

Lorna Long.



AN ANNUAL REPORT: FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK 1989

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In spite of low numbers, amazing progress is being made with the present big project due to the loyalty of the Group's regular and those who come when they are free to do so - an average for the year of 7.3 on the regular days on the third Sunday in each month.

This project, starting with the object of providing a path-way giving access into the real bushland for somewhat handicapped people, proved so successful with grades of no more than 1-in-12 which, given a suitable surface, we were told was suitable for wheelchair use, we decided to cater for these people also.

But then we learned that was for the assisted ones, the independent ones needing a better incline of 1-in-20 maximum which doesn't sound much different but involves longer runs to reach the top of a 1-in-12 climb, and more!

Undeterred, the team have now completed almost all of the considerable extra effort required for the 250 metres involved before the track naturally levels out.

However, the major objective for the Mount Worth Park as far as we are immediately concerned is maintenance. Without it the 33km of walking tracks will be rapidly swallowed up by regrowth. This is a holding operation until the Park becomes adequately known to draw the numbers of people needed to justify the provision of enough staff to equate with the management needs.

One typical example of the tremendous growth in this Park was revealed recently when we were expecting a visit from a walking group for whom we had a special reason that they should get a good idea of the Park's special qualities. To be sure of the route being clear of fallen trees, etc, we walked it through. However, one section which we knew to be open at each end and presumably right through, turned out to be so overgrown since we were last there that we were unable to even find the route which previously was wide enough for a vehicle, so dense was the understory. We beat a strategic retreat back down another main track which turned out to be so overgrown with ferns up to 4 feet high that it also was difficult to follow. The remaining 350 metres of the former took two days more to determine the route and clear.

While the Friends Group are happy about the progress being made on the present project, there is concern that our pre-occupation with its importance means there is no time to attend to many other matters of some equal importance which are related to getting the Park recognised for its true worth. The greater usage aimed at is absolutely necessary for the then justified proper numbers of staff to look after the management of the Park as it should be.

The obvious answer to the cop-out question "Why doesn't the Department of C.F. & L. carry out its task of maintaining the assets of the Park?" is the hard fact of money shortage - essential Government services have to be run on crumbs from the tables of the insatiably greedy. Those of us who believe in Life values being more than money values just have to prove our genuineness by action.

With perhaps one third of the total present project completed

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AN ANNUAL REPORT: FRIENDS OF MT. WORTH STATE PARK cont....

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we look forward to many more days of practical enjoyment and increasing numbers of participants, especially on the regular days on the third Sunday in each month, or on other special days.

Jack Brooks, Coordinator.

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ANNUAL REPORT TO L.V.F.N.C. INC. FROM DELEGATE TO OVERBURDEN

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REHABILITATION COMMITTEE FOR 1988

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During the year a considerable amount of progress was achieved, viz:--

The final plans for the rehabilitation of the Morwell East overburden dump were published.

The plans for the development of the Morwell West overburden dump were seen to be progressing well, including some provision for wet lands.

The dump in Westbrook Gully is well grassed.

Further work needs to be done on the dump in Saviges Track area.

The work on the Yallourn East Field dump is progressing very favourably: cost/value analysis showed up in favour of including wet lands.

Two significant lectures were made to the Committee:-- (1) Mr. Tegart presented a wide ranging, well documented report on fire in the Valley and plans to mitigate its effects.

(2) Mr. Francis gave an overview of the keynote address presented by Mr. McNiell, Secretary of the World Commission on Environment and Development, to the A.M.I.C. 13th annual and first International Environmental Workshop at Darwin, September 1988.

F.J. Blucher, Delegate.

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1989 ANNUAL REPORT LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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CAR STICKER REPORT

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Opening balance \$384.35

Car stickers sold to members: 5 at \$1.50 each = \$7.50

Interest to 1/6/1988 = \$13.84

Balance in bank 7/3/1989 \$405.66

Car sticker Hon. Sec.  
Valma Plant.



A LETTER FROM ELAINE BRABY

Dear Mrs. Trainor,

At last I am able to write to you with some good news on the Eltham Copper Butterfly. Yes! It has been saved for posterity. Would you please inform the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists and thank them very much for supporting the appeal.

Now for some details. The L.V. Nats will remember visiting the Eltham Copper site in Diosma Rd. Eltham. A butterfly colony at the eastern end has been reserved as part of the developer's "open space". The money raised by the appeal plus money from the State Govt. and Eltham Shire, a total of \$425,000, will be used to purchase 4 or 5 blocks at the western end of the site. Another excellent colony exists nearby in Eucalyptus Rd. on a large area belonging to the Ministry of Education. The State Govt. has transferred this land to the Ministry of Conservation, Forests and Lands to be kept as a permanent flora and fauna reserve. Everyone at Eltham is delighted with this result, it is better than we ever hoped for. Unfortunately, it has taken a long time to reach a decision but I guess governments move very slowly.

Perhaps the L.V. Field Nats will remember my son, Michael, and would like to hear some news of him. He has recently moved to Queensland to take up a scholarship at the James Cook University, Townsville. Michael will base his research on Micalesas and Hypocista butterflies for a Doctorate in Entomology.

Thanka again for your interest and support. I enjoyed meeting you and the other Club members and hope we can get together again sometime. Anyone would always be welcome at the Montmorency Field Naturalists on the second Friday of each month.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Braby.

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BEHAVIOUR - BLUE WREN

An unusual sighting was made during the Bird Observer's outing on the Lyrebird Track Walk.

A group of members that had preceded us were gathered on a sharp bend of the track, looking intently into some low scrub; When we arrived we asked "What are you looking at?" and it was pointed out to us a rather amazing sight. There on a branch was a small Blue Wren teetering backwards and forwards, as if it had lost its balance. We stood for a while watching the behaviour, expecting the bird to fall. It then flew to another branch and the same performance was repeated a number of times. We assumed the bird had lost control of its legs as it was using its body for perching. After discussion with each other, we thought that the bird had either taken too much nectar and was drunk, or had run into an object and was still dazed, or it was a very sick bird. The bird was not concerned with our closeness - it was too busy trying to keep its balance.

We then left it to its own devices and continued our walk. Has anyone seen anything like this, or have any other suggestion for this strange behaviour?

Peg Wall.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 15/3/1989

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Five members present. Six apologies.

Business arising from the previous meeting:

1. "Naturalist" addressing. J.Lubcke would appreciate a replacement by June meeting.

Finance:

The meeting ratified an amount of \$300 transferred from the investment account to the cheque account.

Balance: \$206.44

Passed for payment: Australia Post (private box rental) \$24, Contact Stationery \$11.04, Select Office Supplies (amended) \$19.00, Photocopying 1440 covers (J.Wall) \$40.00, YMCA Hall hire Oct-March \$16.00.

Correspondence:(of interest)

In: FNCV Trip to Ada Tree 22/4/89, EPA Symposium "Future of Halons" 11/12 May, SEC Andy Tegart, Fire Management Report, P. Rayment resigned as Vice-pres. 3 to clear way for VP 1. Periodicals: FOHNP, LVWSB Bulletin Feb.89, Geelong Naturalist, W T Field Naturalist Club, SGAP, Trunkline Feb.89, Vic. Naturalist.

Out: Mrs. E. Draby-congrats. to Elaine and Michael, Dept. CFL Mom. of B.Thompson to Central Advisory Council.

General Business:

AGM Friday March 17, 1989.

Nominations received: President - J. Purbrick, Treasurer - A. Stewart, Assist. Sec. - W. Savage.

Mr. J.Wall is not seeking re-nomination as Vice-pres. No 1.

Mr. P.Rayment has resigned as Vice-pres. No 3 and will be put forward for appointment as Vice-pres. No 1.

Mrs. D.Farrow has been nominated as Assist. Treasurer.

Magazine Library: Suggested that a small library of a selection of the excellent magazines received be made available for monthly individual loan.

Conservation Coordinator's Report:

Central Gippsland Forest Management Plan submission posted.

Central Forests - Planning their Future. Letter to Toolangi stating their forests are out of our area.

Wetlands west of Morwell between two bridges - members of Latrobe Landscape Committee to meet with RCA, SEC, Morwell Shire and Morwell Water Board on site on 16/3/89 to discuss the project.

Completed draft for guidelines for planning new water projects to supply environmental water requirements to present to meeting.

Submission on State Plantations Impact Study read to committee by J.Purbrick.

Next meeting Wednesday April 26, 7.30pm in YMCA rooms, Morwell.

Supper Roster: April 28. Dulcie Sambell and Beatrice Roberts.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G. Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O. Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D. C. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 31st Payable to Hon. Treasurer, Mrs A. Stewart  
P.O. Box 169.  
Newborough 3825.

NATURALIST \$8.00

FAMILY \$12.00

SINGLE MEMBER \$ 10.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from  
Members of all Clubs and should be addressed to

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99 Chamberlain Road  
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MAY 1989

ISSUE N<sup>o</sup> 305

# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY FNC Inc.

Meeting: Friday May 26 at 7.30pm  
Speaker: Ellen Lyndon on "Fungi".  
Excursion: Saturday May 27.  
Meet at Mirboo North Pumping Station at 10am. .  
Fungi could be elusive, depending on weather.  
Possible sighting of big tree(s) at Darlimurla  
in the afternoon.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday June 5.  
Meeting place: 10am at corner of Ranch Rd. and Willow Grove  
Rd. for excursion to Tanjil South area.

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Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

June 18. Working bee and tree planting. Meet at Foster's  
Gully at 1.30pm.

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Friends of Mount North Park.

Action days are the third Sunday of the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

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ACF Local Group.

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
91 George St., Morwell.

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IDENTIFYING NATIVE PLANTS

OCTOBER 1988

A talk on identifying native plants given by Mrs. Bon Thompson supported with superb slides taken and shown by Mr. Ollie Thompson.

INTRODUCTION:

Bon opened her address by stating that the object of the night was to identify local wildflowers. Bon said she enjoyed keying out plants and is currently helping a group of people at Latrobe University who are doing a record of the distribution of Victorian native plants. She outlined the history of plant names, described helpful books and how to use a key.

PLANT NAMES:

All plants have two names:-

- \* the generic or family name.
- \* the species or individual name.

It helps to know the meaning of the words used. Species names are mostly descriptive such as:-

longifolia .. long leaves  
latifolia .. broad leaves

Sometimes Australian plants have a name which means they are like one known in Europe. Our plants seemed so different, when first discovered, that they were described by likening them to something already known. This resulted in names like Viola hederacea which means ivy like; hedera meaning ivy in Europe. Plants are also named after people. It is a great honour to have a plant named after you. Banksias were named after Joseph Banks, Muelleri after Baron von Mueller, Willi after Dr. Willis. Two members of our club have been honoured in this way. Dampiera galbraithiana was named for Miss. Jean Galbraith and Mrs. Ellen Lyndon has a fungus named after her. Both of these people sent a previously undescribed specimen to the experts who described and named them.

BOOKS:

There are books such as LANGUAGE OF BOTANY by the Society for Growing Native Plants, which explains words used in describing plants. There are also botanical dictionaries both large and small. All of these are aids to the language used in identifying plants. Bon later discussed Miss. Galbraith's book a FIELD GUIDE TO THE WILD FLOWERS OF SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIA which is unfortunately out of print. She suggested we request the publishers to reprint it, as there is really nothing which takes its place for Victoria and the East Coast. Admittedly Costerman deals with some of the area, but only in the field of trees and shrubs.

IDENTIFYING NATIVE PLANTS

OCTOBER 1988 cont.....

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

Linnaeus in the 1750's, started the system of naming plants. Applying the same name to the same plant throughout the world, theoretically avoiding duplication. However, duplication does sometimes happen in Australia. At the time when Banks, Baron von Mueller and others were collecting, communication was not easy. There was no way of checking, quickly, what names had been used and so there was duplication. Later it had to be checked that the plant in Australis and the plant with its voucher specimen in Kew, England, were actually one and the same. After verification one name could be deleted, the rule being that the first published name was retained. This rule led to a great rush to be first in print.

COMMON NAMES:

Common names are fun. It was obvious that Don enjoys them when she told us of Beard Orchids which are also Old Man Orchids, and Wax Lip Orchids which are sometimes known as Parson-in-the-pulpit. While we can enjoy these names it saves confusion if we use botanical names.

Access to books such as those described above helps in plant identification. We must be observant, look at the different parts of the plant, then use the books to tell us what is special about the plant.

IDENTIFYING PLANTS:

USING BOOKS:

Miss. Galbraith's book is very simple to use. There are three ways of doing this. The first and easiest way is to look at the illustrations which are grouped in flower colours. Turn to the section with the colour of the flower to be identified, or if it is a white or green flower turn to the section where the line drawings, done by Mrs. Jacobson, show the outlines of the flower. This will send you to the family of the flower. If there appears to be nothing like the plant to be identified, turn to page 10 where there is a section looking at shape; eg. for a four petalled, open flower turn to page....If the flower still cannot be identified, the list of families on p.15-19 is helpful.

Leon Costerman takes a different approach. His approach is regional. Section 1 of his book covers common and widespread plants and is the first place to look. The next decision is whether the plant is a tall tree, a tall shrub, or a small shrub. After making that decision, turn to the appropriate section. It is then necessary to look at the distinguishing features, such as leaves, fruit, flower. This step will lead to the descriptive part of the book and perhaps a photograph. If the plant isn't found in the common and widespread section it is necessary to look at the area in which it was found.

cont. p.3.....



IDENTIFYING NATIVE PLANTS

OCTOBER 1988 cont.....

Quite often there will be a little arrow to the distinguishing features of the plant in question.

USING A KEY:

Another way to identify plants is by using a key. This is a bit like doing a crossword puzzle. There are given clues about which a decision must be made considering the evidence in the plant.

Dr. Willis has published a key, divided into two sections; one for dicotyledons and one for monocotyledons. Starting with the key to the families, it leads to the genera, and from there to the species.

The Flora of Australia, if it is ever finished, will be a wonderful tool. It is hoped there will be, eventually, 68 books, but at present there are only ten. Each book deals with one family.

Keys can be simple or complicated, deal with one family, or deal with one geographical area. One key, which has recently come to our notice, deals with birds, giving line drawings, and starting with the question of bird size. Keys are not easy to make, and could probably be made for anything in the natural world. There are two ways of constructing a key. One method uses numbers, the other the alphabet. Alternatives, between which a choice must be made, are given. Such questions as "is it a climber or a shrub or a tree" are asked. If the answer is a shrub the key might direct us to number 4, where the question will be "does it have a nut or a pod?". If the answer is "a pod" the direction is to number 8 which asks "is the pod elongated or triangular?". If the answer is triangular the direction is to number 9 and the question is whether the flowers are yellow and brown or white. Thus we get to the name of the plant.

At this point Ollie showed his beautiful flower slides with Bon pointing out the important features of each plant. The club members then practised keying on the specimens available for that purpose.

Florence Plucher.

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TRACK NOTES

On December 27, 1988, while proudly showing some friends the beauties of Mount Wotho, we came across a tiny mouse-like creature which I believe was an Antechinus. It had a head and body approximately 6 cm. long and a tail approximately 9 cm. long.

Ignoring us, this little creature diligently checked out the litter on the track ahead of us, apparently searching for insects.

We expected it at any time to sense our presence and take flight, but instead it turned back on its tracks and actually scurried over the toe of my shoe as I bent to have a closer look at it.

cont.p.4....

TRACK NOTES cont....

To our collective delight, the little creature climbed onto my outstretched hand where it happily stayed until I transferred it to my friend's hand so I could take a photo of it.

It then cheerfully allowed itself to be transferred back to my hand so my friend could take a photo of it.

Hearing children approaching and fearing for its safety, I placed it at the base of a nearby large stump which it nimbly climbed and disappeared from view.

This is my first sighting of these creatures. Is it usual for them to be so unafraid?

John Mewett.

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EXCURSION TO SALE COMMON, 29/4/89

On our leisurely journey to Sale we saw many birds, including Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Sacred and Straw-necked Ibis, Crimson Rosellas, Galahs, Magpies, Starlings and a Sky Lark.

On arrival at Sale, Mrs. Joan Vincent introduced Mr. Peter Lawrence from the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, who was to be our guide for the day. We also met up with the rest of the party, including members of the Loch Sport and Sale Field Naturalist Clubs.

After studying the bird life on Lake Guthridge, which included Gulls, Moorhens, Black Swans, Coots, a White-faced Heron and a Great Egret, we moved off in convoy to the Sale Common Reserve.

Of course, the first priority was our morning "cuppa", but eventually we moved off on our way. Sale Common covers 308 hectares and in the past has been grazed, used as a rifle range, air strip and picnic area. It is now managed by C.F. & L. as a Reserve. The only Game Reserve in the Sale area. The water level can be regulated and during the dry period was drained so work could be done to improve the terrain and create new habitats. Most of the trees have been planted over the past ten years, grown from seeds from other areas. It was felt that had local seeds been used, the growth might have been more abundant. The Common provides sanctuary for many birds - 126 of which have been listed.

Our first objective was the new bird viewing facility which was constructed as a Commonwealth Employment Programme project. On the way, the nesting boxes for forest bats were pointed out as were the ones for the Chestnut Teal. The latter, apparently, sometimes house other tenants such as rosellas or possums.

Some sharp-eyed observers saw the Golden-headed Cisticola darting about. Near the hide was a frog of beautiful iridescent colours which was undisturbed by our presence - in fact, he was still in the same position when we returned some time later. He was identified as *Hitoria raniformis*.

At the hide we had the pleasure of watching the antics of the Little Grebe, Swanphens, Egrets, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Little Pied Cormorants, Black Swans and Black Duck - although Peter Lawrence expressed disappointment at the lack of numbers.

We retraced our steps and once again set off in convoy for our next destination at the other side of the Common. Here we had our lunch before setting out again down the track. The first sighting was a colony of Pelicans assembled by the shore of the lake. A Whistling Kite circled overhead and one

cont. p.5....



EXCURSION TO SALE COMMON, 29/4/89 cont....

of the Swamphens decided to roost high in a tree. In this area was a variety of smaller birds - Brown Thornbills, a flock of Silver-eye Firetails, Finches, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Superb Fairy Wren, White-browed Scrubwren. A Kookaburra was heard but not seen. Once again we retraced our steps and headed for our third venue: the Heart Morass. This area covers 12,000 hectares, part of which is privately owned and part controlled by C.F. & L. On the way we saw many birds including White and Straw-necked Ibis, Kestrel, Brown Falcon, Magpie Larks, a flock of Tree Martins, Starlings, Indian Mynas, White-faced Heron, Yellow-billed Spoonbill and Ravens.

When we stopped, Peter Lawrence was again disappointed at the small number of birds but we were thrilled to watch eight White-fronted Chats running along the shore watched by some Masked Plovers (now known as Lapwings). On the water were the inevitable Black Swans and Swamphens.

It was then decided to move onto Lake Wellington, but at this point we elected to head for home. Those who went on sighted the Chestnut Teal and Swamp Harrier. Philip Rayment thanked Peter Lawrence for his guidance and Mrs. Joan Vincent for her assistance in organising a very enjoyable and rewarding day.

Jessie Burns and Dorothy Farrow.

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REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 26/4/89

Seven members present. Four apologies.

Business arising from the previous minutes:

1. Conservation Co-ordinator. B. Thompson accepted appointment for a further two-year term. J. Blucher will act as Assistant Conservation Co-ordinator.
2. Assistant Treasurer. Nomination of D. Farrow approved.
3. Magazine Library. Magazines will be available to borrow at General Meetings. D. Farrow will look after this library.
4. Ada River Big Tree Walking Track. Club well represented at official opening. Concern at lack of official protection of this area.
5. Ada River visit with VFNC Botany Group, 22/4/89. J. Wall and W. Marschalek made excellent hosts.

Finance:

Balances: Cheque account \$715.40 including \$20 owed to Treas.  
Investment account \$2005.

Accounts for payment: Contact Stationery \$163.65, Phone calls, Sec.1/1/89 to 31/3/89 \$16.38, Hall hire April, May, June \$30, Corporate Affairs Office (Annual) \$24.10, Conservation Co-ordinator's expenses \$90.70.

Sticker Fund balance: \$405.66. \$300 to be transferred to general funds.

Special Business: Guest speaker, Brian Ward of CF&L.

Brian is the Senior Flora and Fauna Conservation Planner for Central Gippsland CF&L. He spoke on the Land Protection Incentive Scheme and grants for specific purposes which can be applied for by Community groups.

General Business:

1. Deac. Payne would like to donate her Eucalypt Collection to the Club, provided it was added to and maintained.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Received correspondence from National Trust re register of significant trees of Victoria for further information and photos.

Visited Highway area between Moe and Morwell with John Grimes of LRC to identify planting in roadside reservation.

O. Thompson reported on attending a Salinity Day at West Sale, including an aerial view of the problem.

J. Blucher reported that Open Cut rehabilitation work is progressing rapidly with high success rates in plantings.

Next meeting: 24/5/89, 7.30pm YMCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: May 26. June Lubcke and Bon Thompson.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY.</u>	<u>MEETING.</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs G.Trainor Ph. 343659 P.O.Box 1205 MORWELL 3840	7.30pm.on 4th Friday each month at Reg.Education Centre Kirk Street <u>MOE</u>
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr.D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd. COWWARR 3857 Ph. 489251	8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. <u>SALE.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr F.Hanley 9Princes Highway Warragul 3820 Ph. 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary.
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Beth Isakson 10 Cumming Street Paynesville 3880	8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u>

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JUNE 1989

ISSUE N<sup>o</sup> 306

# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY FNC Inc.

- Meeting: Friday June 23 at 7.30pm
- Speaker: Andrew Blackburn on "Flora of Fraser Island and South-east Queensland".
- Excursion: Saturday June 24. David Thomas will lead a geological excursion to the Tyers River Gorge. Meet at 10am at Wirilda Park. Wirilda Park road turns off the Yallourn North/Tyers Road at the Tyers River on the western side. There is a sign to Wirilda at the main road. Along this road there is an entrance with a large sign "Wirilda Environmental Park" on the right-hand side.

Bird Group:

- Meeting: Monday July 3.
- Meeting place: 10am. Cowwarr Weir (first picnic area on left after entering Cowwarr Weir Reserve) for excursion to Stony Creek and Seaton area.

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Warragul FNC: Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

- July 16 History talk on Billy's Creek (depending on speaker). Meet at Tebb Terrace at 1.30pm.
- 

Friends of Mount Wotho Park.

Action days are the third Sundays of the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details . Phone 056 231563

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ACF Local Group

- Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
91 George St., Morwell.
-



### FIRE CONTROL AND PLANT REGENERATION

On Friday 24th February, Messers Andy Tegart and David Francis of the SEC of Victoria Engineering Services Department Emergency and Rural Services very capably enlightened the Club on a number of interdependent areas of information regarding the SEC of Victoria, bush fires in the Valley and the ability of plants to regenerate after a fire.

David briefly introduced us to the SEC's view of bush fires. In the SEC's 85 years of generation in the Valley there have been 10 major fires, five of which impacted on generation, shutting down generation in 1944 for several days.

Yallourn Open Cut covers some 1300 Ha., Morwell 600 Ha. and Loy Yang 300 Ha. The open cuts are really large basins in which the exposed coal faces weather to dust. The dust oxidises in the atmosphere and this sometimes leads to spontaneous combustion. Any spark may also light dry coal dust; in the Morwell Open Cut some 300 fires per annum occur even in the absence of bush fires.

A fire in an open cut may destroy valuable plant or endanger lives as it burns at temperatures between 800 and 1200 degrees celcius. When hot the coal is hard to wet, so fires are difficult to extinguish.

As a consequence, the SEC has prepared two policy documents "Protection of SEC assets from rural fires:1986" and "Policy on fire protection of open cuts" to help people understand the several problems outlined above. One salient point is that fires "run"; burning embers from a pine plantation on fire may travel two kilometres before landing and igniting a new "spot" fire. Burning embers from a eucalyptus forest may travel 20 kilometres before landing and "spotting".

As the operations of the SEC impact on the social welfare of the whole state there have been enacted several Acts to compel the SEC to control fires on its own property.

In order to do this, the SEC liaises with APM, CFA, and CF & L. Manned fire towers and a spotter plane pin-point fires. A mix of well trained fire crews, fire breaks, access roads and systematic fuel reduction burning all help to control the threat caused by a fire external to an open cut.

Fuel reduction burning is a controlled fire aimed at reducing the amount of fuel available to a fire by removing the litter on the ground while not damaging the canopy of the trees, but increases the distance between subsequent fuel and the canopy.

This technique also removes fire brand materials such as fluffy/streamer bark from messmates, manna gums and candle bark gums. This material burns free and is carried many miles ahead of the main fire to "spot" or light another fire.

The "fine" fuel sets the rate of spread of a fire, and refers to the dead twigs less than 6mm in diameter, dry leaves and green twigs less than 2mm in diameter. As an approximation, if you halve the fuel load you halve the spread of a fire.

The procedure for a fuel reduction burn is a well coordinated and strictly policed operation with everybody knowing what is expected of them. The optimum results are that no fuel is left, that there has been no escape and the canopy is intact.



FIRE CONTROL AND PLANT REGENERATION cont.....

After a fire some plants die, some sprout, some flower profusely, some seed: the question is why?

Research has demonstrated that the question has several answers.

The normal sequence of a species is that a mature plant flowers, casts seeds, seedlings sprout and grow to maturity. If the plants are subject to a fire ~~renewal~~, it is helpful to apply a simple classification of woody plants developed by Gill A.M., 1981, in which he divided the plants into two categories:-

A. Plants in the reproductive phase just subject to 100% leaf scorch by fire, die (non-sprouters).

- i. Seed storage in plant
- ii. Seed storage in soil
- iii. No seed storage in burnt area

B. Plants in the reproductive phase just subject to 100% scorch recover (sprouters).

- a. Subterranean regenerative buds
  - i. Root suckers, horizontal rhizomes
  - ii. Basal stem sprouts, vertical rhizomes
- b. Aerial regenerative buds
  - i. Epicormic buds grow out
  - ii. Continued outgrowth of actual aerial prefire buds

To use this classification, draw a triangle with "mature plants" at the apex, "seed" at the lower left-hand corner and "seedlings" at the lower right-hand corner of the triangle. The species will continue to exist if the circle "seedlings", "mature plants" and "seeds" is not broken.

It may be broken by a fire.

With the type A plants, the seedlings will die in a fire and yield no seed. Mature plants can yield seed, but in some instances the seed may be destroyed, while in others the seed may not germinate if the fire has not been hot enough.

With type B plants, the specimen will sprout if the particular plant is sufficiently mature to have enough reserve in its rhizome and the fire is not too hot. If the fire is too hot even mature specimens may be completely incinerated, while many seedlings do not have sufficient reserves to sprout after even a "cool" fire.

Banksias store their seed in cones. A suitable fire desiccates the cone, the seeds emerge and many germinate in the ashes. Legumes store their seed in the ground and the viability of the seed depends largely on the seasonal climatic condition: the seeds often lose viability progressively after five years. The seeds of acacias germinate only when they have been heated sufficiently: fires of 500 kilowatts per metre of front result in few seeds germinating, however good rates of germination result after fires of 3000 kilowatts per metre. If the time between successive fires is too long few seeds germinate: 10 to 15 years is the best period. The best time in the year is late summer or autumn.

Resprouters of type B generally tolerate a fire at any part of the season, withstanding moderate to high temperature fires, but if the fires are too frequent the population tends to be mostly mature plants and ultimately these die and the population



FIRE CONTROL AND PLANT REGENERATION cont.....

collapses. The critical period between fires is dependent on the species, but a period of 8 to 10 years is adequate for seedlings to set seed or have a sufficiently large lignotuber to survive a fire.

In order to successfully use fire to reduce the fuel load while not reducing the plant populations, one must categorise various plants' responses to fire. This may be done by choosing typical species and then studying them intensively over their life cycle, identifying the critical parts of the cycle. This process should be repeated with several types. Comparisons between types will enable the researcher to choose an "indicator" species. The indicator resprouters are the ones slowest to grow a lignotuber of sufficient size, while the indicator seeders are those slowest to set seed. Generally any quicker ones will be conserved in a fire regime, this enables the fire control officer to target in on specific types.

Fuel models in a computer show the time taken for fuel loads to build up in particular forests and may be used to predict when to burn. If the fire officer knows his indicator species he may then burn regularly without wiping out all of a particular plant population.

However, protection values sometimes conflict with conservation values and in these cases the fuel is burnt and the fire officer has to wear the criticism.

1. It has only been the external rural fires which have posed a real threat to the SEC's production assets.

2. The lecture was illustrated by an excellent selection of slides.

3. Some of the subject matter was drawn from a paper, "Effects of fire on plants: Case studies in the proteaceae and fabaceae in the Sydney region and the implications for fire management in conservation reserves." Bradstock R. and Auld T. NSW NP & FS.

4. Mr Larson thanked the team on behalf of the Club, pointing out that a much better understanding of the subject had been gained as a result of the evening's dialogue.

F.J. Blucher.

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FIRE CONTROL EXCURSION FEBRUARY 22, 1989.

It was overcast and cool on Saturday February 22 when nine members' cars met Andy Tegart and Dave Francis of SEC Rural Services at a car park near Yallourn W.

At 10.30 we moved off to examine a 15 hectare area of woodland just north of the old Yallourn to Yallourn North road opposite Yallourn Power Station. Howlett Rd skirts part of the west side of this area. Andy and Dave explained that it is many years since this area was burnt and that the SEC feels that to safeguard the nearby open cut and other major assets it should be treated to a controlled burn as soon as conditions are suitable.

cont.p.4.....

FIRE CONTROL EXCURSION - FEBRUARY 22, 1989 cont....

Selecting the day, and time of day, is still difficult despite advances in technology. We were told that a number of indicators are used. One is to peg out a number of one metre square areas, remove all the floor cover, discard all non-combustibles and all material more than 6mm diameter and weigh what is left. From this they estimate the combustible cover in kilograms per hectare. The weather is of course another prime indicator - forecasts are carefully studied. The final decision may be made only an hour or so before the burn is started. Andy and Dave will let us know when this burn is to start but warned that the notice could be very short.

A number of gullies cut through the woodland and some are rather steep. They propose to use normal practice for this type of country which is to start fires near the top of the slopes and try to get them to burn back down into the gullies against the fire-induced wind direction. It is expected that quite a number of unburnt "islands" will be left scattered through the area. These will preserve relatively unchanged habitats for both flora and fauna without leaving a danger of wildfire development.

Andy and Dave left us at about 12.30 after a vote of thanks from President Jane.

After a leisurely picnic lunch on a grassy spot at the SE corner, some left and the rest of us drove round to the western and southern sides where the gullies are steeper, both rough and smooth tree ferns are bigger and the undergrowth is generally more dense. Water was seen to be seeping into this side from adjacent farmland. Most of the trees in the area are Messmate but we were surprised to find two colonies of Mahogany - Swamp Mahogany in a small swampy flat on the west and Southern Mahogany on a slope on the south side. There were also some very fine Grey Gums and some Mannia Gums on the South side. There is the usual western fringe of Tea-tree, many of which are well established and quite tall. Some members feel that these areas could produce a hot enough fire to scorch the main canopy.

Parts of the southern fringe are infested with feral plants where garden rubbish had been dumped some years ago. On the eastern side, where the woodland abuts cleared farmland, there is a strong infestation of ragwort and some St John's Wort (the imported variety).

Surprisingly, very few birds were heard or seen.

Although February is not a particularly good time to take a plant list for comparison after regeneration, members did manage to produce quite an impressive list of over 100 species.

One not well informed member was astounded to see what looked like an epiphyte orchid twined round a slender sapling - perhaps the burn would be off - perhaps a new National Park. Andy was not disturbed - it was a Mistletoe, in fruit too - Olly immediately identified it as the creeping variety, Muellera eucalyptoides. Your scribe was red-faced - again. At about 4pm, following afternoon tea and some detailed perusal of reference books re Mahogany trees, we headed for home in warm sunshine. A very pleasant day and our thanks to Andy and Dave.

Ron Court.



### SWAMP MAHOGANY MYSTERY

On the February excursion to West Gully, Yallourn North, Swamp Mahogany in the northern section and Southern Mahogany in the south-west section of the block were identified. As these trees are well out of the normal range, we suspected that the occurrence here was man influenced.

I rang Ian McDonald, retired SEC forester and member of our Club, for information. In 1934 Swamp Mahogany were planted on the northern slopes of the original Yallourn overburden dump. In 1956-60 they were planted on the eastern side of the high dump towards Anderson's Creek. Also in approximately 1956 brush fencing was erected along Howletts Road side of West Gully block to prevent silt washing down into the gully. Some of the material for the brush fencing came from plantings on the original Yallourn overburden dump and could easily have contained seeds of the Swamp Mahogany. So, the mystery of the Swamp Mahogany in West Gully is explained. The most interesting fact is that the species has become naturalised in the gully as the trees were of varying age which should mean they are seeding and growing naturally there.

Miss Galbraith adds that the Swamp Mahogany was also planted as street trees in Newborough.

Don Thompson.

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### MISTLETOE SEED

For four days in a row I found different sets of two small sticky objects, one on top of the other, on the wire of the clothesline. I thought they must be insect eggs or pupa. I put the last set in a jar to see what emerged, but the top of one of the objects grew a green head. I did not worry and thought perhaps a caterpillar would emerge. However, when a couple of days later, a thin green neck appeared I began to have second thoughts. We thought they were probably mistletoe seeds. I had not recognised them as I have not seen these seeds after they have been eaten by a bird. So I put them on the branch of an apple tree. Even though the seeds had been in a jar for a few days, the 'head' attached itself to the branch and is still alive although not growing. The conclusion we came to was that we must have had a mistletoe bird in the garden as the other birds would not have succeeded in placing the seeds on the wire. They perch across the wire, not along it. Our disappointment was that we had missed the beautiful mistletoe bird. A few days later we discovered a mistletoe plant growing on a wattle tree on the other side of the house.

Don Thompson.

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REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFMC ON 24/5/89

Ten members present. Two apologies.

Business arising from the previous minutes: (of interest)

1. 'Naturalist' addressing. W. Savage to proceed with labels.
2. Land Protection Incentive Scheme. Sale FHC to deal with Dawson Railway Reserve.
3. Environment Grant from Ministry for Planning and Environment. Keith Hamilton, MIA for Morwell, handed cheque for \$700 to President on 8/5/89.
4. Eucalypt Specimen Collection of Deaconess Payne. Ken Savage will look after it.

Finance:

Balances: Cheque account: \$694.57  
Investment account: \$2005.03  
Conservation money: \$700.00

Correspondence (of interest): In:

1. Dairnsdale FHC. Invitation to excursion to Mt. Elizabeth on 17/9/89 and to talk by Leon Costermans on 15/9/89.
  2. Friends of Morwell National Park. Newsletter and Conference Report.
  3. LRC. Traralgon Shire Planning Scheme Amendment L24.
  4. A. Thies. Bryophyte list, April excursion to Ada Tree.
- Periodicals - MT Nature Territory May/June, SGAP May, Vic. Naturalist March/April.

Out:

1. LRC. Re Traralgon Shire Amendment L24.
2. Min. Planning and Environment. Non-agreement to Traralgon Shire Amendment L24.
3. Traralgon Shire. Non-agreement to Amendment L24.

Conservation Co-ordinators Report:

Plant list for West Gully, Yallourn North to R. Incol, SEC.  
Lists of plants, birds and bryophytes for Ada Tree area to Mike Cecil, LRC.

Submission presented on Alpine Area-Bogong Planning Unit, Proposed Management Plan by J. Blucher.

Checked Pomaderris humilis at Holey Plains State Park for Peter Lawrence and Neville Walsh.

Next meeting: Wednesday June 21, 7.30 pm. YMCA Morwell.

Supper roster: June 23, M. Austin and F. Blucher



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659	7.30pm on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St <u>Moe.</u>
	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-429251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Curming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

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JULY 1989

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# Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY FNC INC.

Meeting: Friday, July 28 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Gary Richardson on "Micro-worlds".  
Members are invited to bring tiny specimens of shells, mosses, flowers and fungi to be viewed via the microscope on a television screen.

Excursion: Saturday, July 29. Meet at 10 am at Moe Education Centre. Micro-sample collecting at several ponds and then return to Ed. Centre to view these on video. Bring a light lunch.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, August 7 .

Meeting place: Meet at 10 am at Junction of Thorpdale-Driffield Road and Mt. Hut Road for an excursion to Bird's Gully.

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Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

August 6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Special General Meeting.  
August 20 Visit to Coolart, Somers. Arrangements to be notified.  
August 26 Return visit of Friends of Warrandyte State Park.

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Friends of Mount Worth Park.

Action days are the third Sundays of the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details, phone 056 231563

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Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group.

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
91 George Street, Morwell.

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EXCURSION TO TOY'S BACKWATER AT INVERLOCH - MARCH 20, 1989

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Os and Eulie Brewster led an excursion to Toy's Backwater, which is a relatively new saltmarsh caused by a build up of sand in the Inlet at Inverloch. An old sea wall which bordered the roadside clearly showed the changing nature of the area as it is more than a hundred metres inland, yet Eulie recalled her son learning to swim at this point which boasted about three feet of water at the time.

The land in this area has been building up since about 1930 due to the natural forces of wind and water. It is thought that there is about a 40 year cycle of deposit and erosion regardless of man's intervention. One well-established bank in the built-up area was obviously eroding at present with exposed tree roots and toppling and washed-out shrubs along the beach.

Not all the build up we observed was natural as an area had been filled with rubbish by the Council and gradually planted out by the Conservation Society since 1969. A Bowling green had been established on one area of build-up and when it began to erode was bolstered with bluestone to arrest the process. Conservation, Forests and Lands are currently proposing to develop a car-park, playground area but it was felt that this is likely to hasten erosion by creating an opening for the wind, and that the local vegetation now covering the area is more desirable.

Visually, Toy's Backwater appears to comprise three different areas - low lying areas covered in ground-hugging plants and grasses, higher areas and banks covered with medium and low shrubs and a belt of taller trees and shrubs further back from the inlet and bordering the roadside.

The main plants in the low lying areas were Beaded Glasswort, Spinifex, Sea Lavender and Rushes. Rice-grass was creeping into these areas and as an invasive introduced plant was not considered welcome. It was first introduced to hold the sand on a farm and is now appearing all along the coast. Rice-grass causes a build up of sand, but competes with and replaces other plants, including mangroves.

The higher areas and banks mainly comprised Marsh Saltbush, Speargrass, Coast Tea-tree, Coast Wattle and Coast Sword Sedge.

Many of these shrubs also bordered the roadside in addition to small trees such as Sweet Bursaria and Boobialla. It was interesting to find a large variety of "garden escapes" in this area such as Cottoneaster, Golden Rod and Ivy but these appeared to be quite localized. (These are dumped by householders).

After our saltmarsh excursion we drove to a private block of land on the other side of Inverloch which stretches down to the sea. This block is mown annually but is otherwise untouched and had a good covering of large trees and shrubs. A lovely spreading Peppermint, or Black Peppermint as it is locally known, graced the entrance to the block. Other trees were Cherry Ballart, Prickly Tea-tree, Coastal Manna Gum, Coast Wattle and *Acacia suaveolens*, the Sweet Wattle.

A beehive hung like a shroud from a branch of a Peppermint in a gully and a hole above it may have been occupied by a

EXCURSION TO TOY'S BACKWATER AT INVERLOCK - MARCH 20, 1989

...cont.  
sugar-glider living close to its lair, but more likely was a possum hole.

The Hyacinth Orchids, *Dipodium punctatum* were just finishing flowering and one good specimen had about 25 flowers along its length. Other plants I recorded were:

*Lindsaea* sp. (Screwfern)  
*Epacris impressa* (Common Heath)  
*Gonocarpus tetragyna* (Raspwort)  
*Leptospermum juniperinum* (Prickly Tea-tree)  
*Billadiera scandens* (Climbing Appleberry)  
*Gahnia radula* (Thatch Sawsedge)  
*Burchardia umbrellata* (Milkmaids)  
*Patersonia occidentalis* (Purple Flags)  
*Melaleuca squarrosa* (Scented Paperbark)

Wendy Savage.

PLANT LIST OF TOY'S BACKWATER, MARCH 17, 1989

*Ammophila arenaria* (Marram Grass) \*  
*Apium prostratum* (Sea Celery)  
*Atriplex cinerea* (Coast Saltbush)  
    *paludosa* (Marsh Saltbush)  
*Cakile maritima* (Two-horned Sea Rocket) \*  
*Carpobrotus rossii* (Ross's Moonflower)  
*Gahnia filum* (Chaffy Saw-sedge)  
*Helichrysum paraliu* (Coast Everlasting)  
*Isolepis nodosa* (Knobby Club-rush) (previously *Scirpus nodosus*)  
*Juncus kraussii* (Sea Rush) (previously *J. maritimus*)  
*Lagurus ovatus* (Hare's Tail Grass) \*  
*Lepidosperma gladiatum* (Coast Sword-sedge)  
*Limonium australe* (Yellow Sea Lavender)  
*Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) (previously *P. communis*)  
*Rhagodia candolleana* (Seaberry Saltbush) (prev. *R. baccata*)  
*Samolus repens* (Creeping Brookweed)  
*Sarcornia quinqueflora* (Beaded Glasswort) (prev. *Salicornia quinqueflora*)  
*Selliera radicans* (Sea Celery)  
*Spartina townsendii* (Rice Grass) \*  
*Spinifex sericeus* (Hairy Spinifex) (prev. *S. hirsutus*)  
*Stipa stipoides* (Prickly Spear Grass)  
*Suaeda australis* (Austral Seablite)  
*Triglochin striata* (Streaked Arrowgrass)

PLANTS AND SHRUBS ON OUTER DUNE OF TOY'S BACKWATER

*Acacia sophorae* (Coast Wattle)  
*Atriplex cinerea* (Coast Saltbush)  
*Banksia integrifolia* (Coast Banksia)  
*Carpobrotus rossii* (Ross's Moonflower)  
*Conyza canadensis* (Canadian Fleabane) \*  
*Epilobium cinereum* (Variable Willowherb)  
*Lagurus ovatus* (Hare's Tail Grass) \*  
*Leptospermum laevigatum* (Coast Tea-tree)

cont. p.3.....



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PLANTS AND SHRUBS ON OUTER DUPE OF TOY'S BACKWATER ...cont

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Leucopogon parviflorus (Coast Beard-heath)  
 Lycium ferocissimum (Boxthorn) \*  
 Melilotus indica Sweet Melilot) \*  
 Olearia axillaris (Coast Daisybush)

---

TREES, SHRUBS ETC ALONG ESPLANADE EDGE OF TOY'S BACKWATER

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Acacia sophorae (Coast Wattle)  
 Acaena anserinifolia (Bidgee Widgee Burr)  
 Banksia integrifolia (Coast Banksia)  
 Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)  
 Cassinia aculeata (Common Cassinia)  
 Clematis microphylla (Small-leaf Clematis)  
 Coprosma repens (Mirror Bush) \*  
 Delairea odorata (Cape Ivy) \* (prev. Senecio milkioides)  
 Leptospermum laevigatum (Coast Tea-tree)  
 Leucopogon parviflorus (Coast Beard-heath)  
 Muehlenbeckia adpressa (Climbing Lignum) \*  
 Myoporum insulare (Boobialla)  
 Pittosporum undulatum (Sweet Pittosporum)  
 Pteridium esculentum (Austral Bracken)  
 Rubus parvifolius (Small-leaf Bramble)  
 Sambucus gaudichaudiana (Elderberry)  
 Solanum nigrum (Black Nightshade) \*  
 Tetragonia implexicoma (Bower Spinach)  
 Cotoneaster sp. (Cotoneaster) \*\*  
 Hedera helix (English Ivy) \*\*  
 Salix sp. (Willow) \*\*

\* Introduced species in Victoria

\*\* Introduced species possibly from foreshore planting  
 or from dumped garden rubbish.

Eulie Brewster

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ROCKPOOLING AROUND EAGLE'S NEST MARCH 18, 1989

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Margaret Rowe, armed with a white icecream container, led a very pleasant post prandial wander around the rock platform.

Prior to embarking on the afternoon's "turnstoning" activities Margaret made some introductory comments. She spoke on the area generally and particularly on recent efforts to have the Bunurong (among the best rock platform communities in Victoria) proclaimed as a marine reserve. These efforts were being frustrated by a series of technical hitches over road reserves and bureaucratic vacillation. It is hoped that these will be resolved soon, for even as she spoke a spearfisherman emerged from the blue water with a territorial species of fish (probably inedible) impaled on his spear.

Evidently several reef areas have been, and are being, denuded of their myriad of lifeforms. This Reserve's proclamation will provide an area for scientific study as well as a valuable breeding area for the fish. This will help ensure

cont. p.4....

ROCKPOOLING AROUND EAGLE'S NEST MARCH 18, 1989 cont..

the continuation of fishing as a recreational and economic activity. A rock platform community is very sensitive to outside interference as its living things are interdependent. Producers (phytoplankton, algae etc), consumers (animals which eat plants and or other animals) and decomposers (which recycle the remains of plants and animals) rely on one another and the sea provides dissolved gases and minerals.

The rock platforms and the Bunurong cliffs are formed from mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate which were laid down in Cretaceous times (100-110 million years ago). The rock platform itself has been created by the action of the sea eroding the cliff face. The resulting gutters, rockpools and areas of harder rock provide habitat for the organisms. Areas of fossil ripple marks are exposed, these were scallop shaped which is characteristic of estuarine or seashore formation. Fossilized shells and wood and some black coal were seen and, we were reliably informed, fossilized dinosaur bones are found although none were observed. Jointing lines were seen running at about 85 degrees to each other approximating a tessellation in some small areas.

The harsh and changeable conditions of this intertidal zone have necessitated many adaptations or special features in the resident species. Some can prevent themselves from drying out by remaining in sheltered areas; others protect themselves from wave action by firmly attaching themselves to rock.

Many interesting feeding adaptations were noted. Predatory snails, which are distinguished by a groove in their shell; eg. the dog winkle, can sense their prey and feed on it by boring a hole in its shell. Starfish feed on sponges and small molluscs by turning their stomachs inside out and enveloping their prey. Sea anemones inject a poisonous sting from their tentacles and paralyse their prey.

The largest mollusc observed was the elephant snail, which is black, about 10 cm long with a small oblong humped shell. It is found in pools near the low tide mark.

The only dangerous animal on the reef is the blue ringed octopus which should never be handled as its bite can kill.

Using her icecream container to display specimens, Margaret identified the organisms in the plant and animal lists below.

PLANTS

Sea Lettuce	Ulva lactuca
Neptunes Necklace	Hormosira banksii
Coralline Red Algae	PHYLUM Rhodophyta
Blue-green Algae	PHYLUM Cyanophyta
Kelp	PHYLUM Phaeophyta

ANIMALS

PHYLUM CNIDARIA - hollow muscular bodies with rings of tentacles.

Red Waratah Anemone	Actinia tenebrosa
Green Anemone	Cnidopus verater
Striped Sea Anemone	Anthothoe albocincta
	Isanemonia australis



ROCK POOLING AROUND EAGLE'S NEST MARCH 18, 1989 cont...

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PHYLUM ANNELIDA -- segmented worms

Serpulid Worm                      Galeolaria caespitosa

PHYLUM MOLLUSCA -- soft bodies

Chitons                      Ischnochiton sp.  
                                 Ischnoradsia australis  
                                 Poneroplax alba

Gastropods

Abalone                      Haliotis ruber  
Elephant Snail                Scutus antipodes  
Variegated Limpet            Cellana tramoserica  
Tall-ribbed Limpet          Pattelloida alticostata  
Dog Winkle                    Thais orbita  
Warrener                      Turbo undulata  
Anemone Cone Shell          Conus anemone

Bivalves

Little Horse Mussel           Xenostrobus pulex

PHYLUM ECHINODERMATA -- "spiny" skinned, tube feet

Common Sea Star              Patiriella calcar  
Small Green Sea Star          Patiriella exigua  
Purple Sea Star                Patiriella brevispina  
Spiny Sea Star                Allostichaster polyplax  
Five Armed Star                Hectria sp.  
Vermillion Sea Urchin          Holopneustes porossimus  
Pink Sea Cucumber              Lipotrapeza sp.

Ken Savage

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BIRD VISITORS

We have had a few new bird visitors in our garden this year. First on the 2nd of February the Song Thrush, with its speckled breast, visited. Then on the 7th of March the Oriole which is an accomplished, though quiet, mimic of other birds' calls. Lastly from the 14th of May we have had two Lewin Honeyeaters fluttering amongst the shrubs and trees. They also feed at the broken surface of apples partly eaten by other birds. Lately they are feeding at the suet hanging in the tree. The Lewin Honeyeaters are the first honeyeaters to be interested in the suet.

Don Thompson

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC

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EXCURSION RULES

Meeting at start of Excursion:

Our meeting place and any necessary arrangements appear in the Naturalist and are announced at the preceding Friday evening meeting.

We ask members and friends to arrive by the nominated time so that the excursion can commence without delay. (Sometimes our morning tea break will be later in the program!)

The president or deputy will introduce the leader of the excursion, and their vehicles will normally lead the convoy. A tail vehicle will be arranged; the driver of that vehicle should check with the leaders the route to the next stop at each stage of the program. The tail driver should keep count of the number of cars in the convoy.

Where appropriate the Club's two-way radios will be used by the leaders and tail driver.

If necessary, the member responsible for writing up the day will be arranged or confirmed.

A route map and other information such as plant lists may be provided for participants.

In convoy and during excursion:

Any participant leaving the party for any reason (including early departure) must inform the president or deputy, if necessary via another member.

Please travel at reasonable speed and at a safe distance from the car in front.

We ask cars to keep in the same order for the day, circumstances permitting.

When driving between stops, keep the car behind in sight. Indicate turns well in advance, and wait (at a safe distance from the corner) if necessary after completing your turn.

WE CAN ALL DO OUR BIT FOR AN ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING EXCURSION.

A WARM WELCOME TO ANY NEW MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

(Thanks to Philip Rayment for compiling these rules.)



ON THE SUBJECT OF LEECHES

The Girl Guides Association recently asked the Field Naturalists whether they could provide an "expert" to talk to a group of Girl Guides on the subject of leeches.

There are not too many experts on leeches around, so somehow I was asked if I knew anything. The answer was really "no", but I have since remedied that a bit, and finding I had a fair amount of information in my library and in an excellent article in Australian Geographic passed on to me by Bon Thompson, I agreed to prepare a talk.

It seems that last March one Guide got a leech attached inside her eyelid. It was successfully removed with the aid of a book of matches (in the rain), but had the result of making many of the troop excessively wary of leeches. My task was to alleviate their fear by providing some real information.

I drove over to Coringle Scout Camp on Saturday June 17 at 8 pm, where I talked to some 40 Girl Guides. I had to follow a more exciting performance - talk by Police Search and Rescue which finished with a demonstration of setting off a flare.

My talk was in three parts. First, a quick summary of what I had gleaned of their biology and reproduction. Secondly, I talked at length about the way leeches were used extensively by doctors for blood-letting (and are occasionally still used to reduce excessive bruising). Finally, I talked about the experience of meeting leeches in the bush and possible precautions.

Questions were many, and the leech in the eye had given an impression that leeches dropped from trees. I attempted to dispel this idea and it was a help when I asked a girl who had met a lot of leeches that day how many she had found above her waist. The answer was only one out of 44 with the majority on her boots and ankles.

The reporter in the Geographic article finished by deliberately letting himself be bitten by a leech and watching it feed. Fortunately there were no leeches in the room to feed on me, but the Guide Leader bravely undertook the role of victim for the morrow so that the girls could observe the process from start to finish.

Ken Harris.

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REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 21/6/89

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Ten members present. One apology.

Business arising from the previous minutes: (of interest)

1. Land Protection Incentive Scheme. Club has applied for grant to have pines in Clarke's Road area removed.
2. MGRIB Inspection invitation 17/6/89. Binocular inspection was the order of the day owing to lack of water-craft (boat): Sec. to forward plant list suggesting that area not suitable for recreation purposes owing to abundance of birds. Ideal bird sanctuary area, for small birds. Picnic area could be located near road material storage.

Finance:

Balance: \$693.67  
\$2005.03 Investment account.

Conservation Co ordinator's Report:

1. Minister for C.F.&L.re San Pemo intertide marine community for Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act Protection. (letter)
2. Roadside Conservation Committee re Vic. Roads Study.(letter)
3. Submission on Vic. Roads - Victoria's Rural Arterial Roads Strategy.
4. With Peg and Jim Wall, inspected Boola Boola Reserve in reply to phone call from Narracan Shire.
5. Met Narracan Shire Officer at reserve to request further work on revegetation area and signs.
6. Received visit from Andrew Horner, DCFL, for lists of flora of Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve and State Forest and also lists of Jocerlang Education Area and adjacent private alnd.
7. Presented draft submission for Managemant Plan for Morwell National Park.
8. With Club members prepared plant and bird list for Mid-Gippsland River Management Board.

Matters arising from the correspondence:

1. Members and friends could express interest in Morwell National Park by writing individually about management plans to DCFL, Yarram.

General Business: (of interest)

1. Recycling of household rubbish. Suggested that members check with local councils as to how best sort and dispose of rubbish. This varies within shires.
2. Zoo trip. Saturday, August 26. M.Austin will be organising this. Cost approx. \$11. \$10 deposit will be requested. Zoo entry for a group \$5, pensioners and children \$2.80. Guides can be arranged through FOZ.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 7.30 pm at YMCA, Morwell.

Supper roster: July 28, Peg Wall and Pearl Reeves.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659	7.30pm on <del>4th</del> Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St <u>Moe.</u>
	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, <u>Raymond St Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Curming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. <u>Hall, Bairnsdale.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31st. Payable to Hon. Treasurer Mrs.A.Stewart  
P.O.Box 169  
Newborough 3825

NATURALIST \$10.00      FAMILY \$20.00      SINGLE MEMBER \$15.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the  
Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited  
from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor  
Mrs. Pam Petschack  
8 Church St  
Trafalgar 3824

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY FNC INC.

Meeting: Friday, August 25 at 7.30 pm.  
Speaker: Barry Traill on "Endangered Species"  
Excursion: Saturday, August 26. Bus trip to the Melbourne Zoo. Friends of Zoo will provide two guides and will meet us at approx. 11.30 am. Meet to return 3.30 to 4.00 pm.  
Bus departure times.  
8.00 am Traralgon Hospital car park  
8.15 am Opposite Morwell Post Office  
8.30 am Opposite Moe Railway Station  
8.30 am Trafalgar Post Office

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, September 4.  
Meeting place: 10.00 am at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers-Mallourn North Road (at bridge) for excursion to Winilda.

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Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

September 17 Koala Survey - meet at Fosters Gully.

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Friends of Mount Wotho Park

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details, phone 056 231563

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Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group.

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
91 George St, Morwell.

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MACKY'S RESCUE

Shortly after the opening of duck shooting season, members of the East Gippsland Branch of Bird Observers Club, out on an excursion around the perimeter of Macleods Morass, discovered a young raptor. The bird most likely was not ready to leave the nest and was obviously disturbed and disorientated. It appeared that the parents were unable to locate their young one for feeding. It was clear to the group that help was needed, so, who but Pauline Stewart could provide that help. Pauline owns and operates the local wild life shelter, and was quickly on the scene when the group phoned her for help. During their absence at the phone the bird was left unattended but on their return to the scene he had moved away. So the group set up a search party. After a fruitless half hour they were ready to admit defeat when one sharp-eyed searcher discovered the youngster. It was evident that his leg muscles were well developed for it was not easy to catch him; however, a blanket was thrown over him and he was lifted in a bundle into a box in the car, rendering him immobile but with air for him to breathe freely.

The first step after getting him to the refuge was to treat him for shock, as birds find it very stressful to be handled by humans. In addition there appeared to be a slight injury to one wing which would contribute to the stress situation.

He was put into a small cage where movement was restricted, a thick piece of branch on the floor of the cage enabling the bird to grip with his long talons. The cage was covered and placed on an electric heat pad and left all night. Next morning, Tuesday, he was named Macky - for Macleods Morass, and a small amount of daylight was introduced into the darkened cage. A fresh dead mouse was offered and in five minutes it was gone, indicating that Macky was very hungry. As no more mice were available he was offered pet mince which he grabbed in the talons and quickly consumed. Pauline enlisted the help of Hugh Sherritt, a local authority on raptors, to help her carry out a more thorough examination for injury. Hugh wore thick leather gloves, caught the bird by the legs in order to keep it immobilised, Pauline held the head and between them they ascertained that there was no visible injury, except that one wing drooped and that condition was sometimes more pronounced as time passed.

Wednesday, am., Pauline was able to collect three road kill sparrows and along with one mouse, and more pet mince, all was offered to Macky and were all devoured hungrily. He was fed a similar diet for four days and then he was released into a seven foot square enclosure with six foot perches and one about two feet high, and also a large Melaleuca branch leaning on a large stump. This was well accepted by Macky and he scrambled up these aids into the Melaleuca and six foot perch. He appeared well content to stay there. His diet consisted of road kill rabbits, magpies, sparrows and trapped mice, so Pauline was kept fairly busy providing food. One worrying aspect was that periodically the wing was very drooped and the prognosis was not hopeful, however, Pauline persisted as is her habit. A live mouse was sometimes offered to foster the natural instinct in the bird and he dealt with that well. He flew around the enclosure with confidence.

cont.p.2.....



LACKY'S RESCUE cont.....

On May 2 Pauline enlisted Roger Bilney of Conservation, Forests and Lands to be present when she released her patient. He didn't make it at the first attempt, but on being given a second chance and being well fortified with food he took off - a little clumsily, but it was clear that his wings were getting stronger by the minute.

Finally he left his caretaker and became a beautiful free Marsh Harrier.

It is claimed by game shooters that no protected birds are shot and no doubt they make that claim with honesty, but one is compelled to consider how many similar events to this one arise in March when the habitat of such splendid creatures is so rudely invaded.

Norma Smith.

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INSPECTION OF NEW AND ESTABLISHED WORK

A Field Day conducted by Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board

At the invitation of the Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board a group of people assembled at the Board's depot in Cowwarr at 8.30 am on Wednesday, May 17, 1989. The folk were all concerned about the state of our waterways and had come to see at first hand the results of works conducted in the 1950's, 1960's and also the newer works.

Mr. Cook, the Chairperson of the Board, welcomed us all, and introduced Mr. Allan Eddy, the engineer, and Mr. Phil Taylor, the local foreman. Phil turned out to be our tour leader for the day - a task he handled very ably.

After Phil had briefly outlined the day's program, we all had a cuppa, chatted amongst ourselves for a time while we examined the display of photos and also watched some of the Board's achievements in the making by means of a video. We then set off in a bus for Mr. Mitchell's property on Rainbow Creek.

The restoration work on this property has only just been completed; the precipitous bank had been battered, filter cloth laid, and about 1200 cubic metres of rip-rap put in place. The area has been fenced off. This took the crew 21 days to complete, and extends from the gate of the Cowwarr Weir downstream on the south bank for about 300 metres. It is planned that the area will be planted with trees on World Environment Day - June 5, 1989.

Then it was all aboard - next stop Mr. Doug Nicol's place on Fell's Creek. The owner met us on arrival, and while conducting us around the work gave us a lively and comprehensive explanation of the task. The work comprised stabilising the banks by use of three grade-reducing weirs, battering and planting trees. The stock are kept away by new fences and the whole aspect was showing promise of recovering. The DCFL had made substantial grants available over a period of three years, while the Board had supplied machinery and trees. Mr. Nicol had also contributed very actively to the success of this Land Care Project. Thanks to Doug for his hospitality.

cont.p.3....



A Field Day conducted by Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board

cont.....

On our way to Scarne Bridge, where the Traralgon-Maffra road crosses the Latrobe River, we stopped briefly at Yorky's Gully where we saw first hand the need for land care education. Many years ago the tea-tree had been cleared and a small drain dug in the gully. By various means the banks had been stabilised but the drain had become choked with weeds. With a change of owner last year, the drain was cleaned out and the erosion cycle was started off again.

At Scarne Bridge, we inspected an interesting site. Because the river had threatened the road and also a new bridge was to be built, a meander was by-passed. This left an island of about one hectare which has a good representative sample of the local flora and fauna on it and is right beside the road. This island plus part of the easement of the old road appears to have potential as a rest and recreation area for motorists. Commissioner Dawson explained to us what the possibilities were and informed us that there were 2800 vehicle movements daily past the site.

By now it was lunch time, so we set off for Mr. Jim Macklin's property on Flynn's Creek where the Board had arranged for us to have a very tasty picnic luncheon. After lunch, we inspected the gully head control works which had been erected about 1960. There are three principal parts to the works - a lower-level weir with flow control gates, a pair of 750 mm conduits which bring the water down to the lower level from the upper level and a grassed chute which accommodates that water from flash floods which is in excess of the capacity of the conduits.

We also inspected a comprehensive plantation of native trees and shrubs on the eroded banks of the creek, downstream from the gully head works. Most of the specimens had grown really well in the five years since their planting. In particular the *Makea laurinas* are a picture. Jim pointed out some blooms where bees were gathering nectar; one flower had 11 bees head-down inside the "pin-cushion". Several New Holland Honeyeaters were also very busy.

We then went boating on the Latrobe River - on King's and Bowman's properties are several meanders which in the past had been cut off by well-meaning people but which had now been reinserted into the stream. The flows across the "cuts" are controlled by low-level rock barrages such that at normal and low flows most of the water goes around the meander, at times of high flow a proportion goes down the "cut". We inspected the river scenery from the water and were very impressed with the quality of the scenery in the meander as compared with that in the "cut".

Phil pointed out that the stream's velocity and hence its eroding power was controlled largely by the gradient of the bed of the stream; in the "cut" the stream fell about one metre in the 200 metre length of the cut, while in the meander the stream fell the same amount in about a kilometre - a much more gentle body of water with much less erosive power.

This was the conclusion of the inspections Phil had planned for us for the day, so we journeyed back down to the Depot for afternoon tea. During the trip Commissioner Dawson thanked us for coming to see and learn about the Board's activities, but it should have been us thanking him for a very informative and interesting day.

Jim Blucher.



LAKE TALİ KARNG VISITED

On Saturday, the 18th March, Wilma, Alan, Darren and I drove to Valencia Creek, to the home of Charlie Noble who was to be our guide on a 4WD drive/walk into Lake Tali Karng. Our itinerary was to go up to the Lake on Saturday, camp there overnight and then return home on Sunday.

Packs were loaded into the vehicle and we set off, driving to Licola, then taking the Tamboritha-Bennison Plains road and finally down the Carey River track.

Charlie found a suitable spot to leave the vehicle in the bush beside the river; packs were loaded up and hoisted onto backs and we set off. I was favoured as my pack was very light. It was 12.30 as we started walking.

We followed the course of the Wellington River, crossing it six times, and for three hours enjoyed an undulating walk on a very pleasant autumn day. A clearing by the river was an ideal site for lunch, and we were entertained by the acrobatic feats of a huge black goanna that made a leisurely climb up an old white tree trunk when our arrival disturbed him. He was later joined by a smaller black one on another limb of the same dead tree. Our walk continued and we admired the many beautiful and various forms of plant and bird life around us.

The track we were following was first marked by Clive Cheyne Lanigan of Heyfield, a much respected bush and trail rider (one of the old school who used his motorbike as a means to an end, not an end in itself). Clive had known of the track for some time but it was not officially named until 1977-78 when the Ben Cruachan Walking Club marked the route and attached a plaque to a huge moss-covered boulder near the foot of the "barrier", in memory of this keen bushman.

We left the river and passed through a delightful area of ferns, etc., but not long after, the picnic was over! We had arrived at the foot of a steep climb, up the Valley of Destruction. This is believed to have been formed some 20,000 to 30,000 years ago when a huge rock fall from the Sentinal side blocked off the valley of the river and so formed Lake Tali Karng.

The fitter members of the party forged ahead and appeared to take the climb in their stride, but age and my poor condition took its toll and I came a bad last. Alan dropped back and kept me company, giving me lots of encouragement, and we made our panting way to the top - a one and a half hour climb for me, some 20 minutes behind the others. It was then only a few yards down from the top of the climb to the lake side, and the time was 5.30. And what were my first impressions of the lake? Well, I was just so pleased that I had made it! I was there! However, as I looked around me and enjoyed the quiet, the beauty and the isolation of the lake, I just hoped that it would always be like this.

Tents were put up and Charlie prepared our evening meal while Alan threw in a fishing line and we scouted around looking under rocks to find something for bait. Later on we saw the moon rise over the tops of the mountains, casting reflections in the still lake waters, an unforgettable sight. We were all tucked up in our sleeping bags by 9.30.

We were up early next morning and breakfast of cereal, bacon and eggs and coffee was enthusiastically tackled. We packed up our tents and went for a walk around the lake. It is pear-shaped, fed by a small stream called the Nigothoruk Creek at the "stem end" of the pear. Just a few yards upstream from the



LAKE TALİ KARNG VISITED cont.....

creek's entrance into the lake there is a small but spectacular waterfall, the Snowdon Falls. Charlie didn't know the age or origin of these names but thought that the falls may have been named after an aborigine.

The lake is reputed to be about 150 feet deep and it has no visible outlet, but approximately one kilometre down the valley from the lake, water permeated through the rocky barrier and forms into the Wellington River.

Tali Karng is said to be aboriginal for Little Lake. Trout were introduced in the late 1800s or early 1900s; they were taken in on pack-horses, packed in kerosene tins. Alan had caught one under-sized fish that was thrown back -- we hope to live another day and enjoy life in the lake -- and we saw signs of many fish jumping in the dark waters. In Nigothoruk Creek we saw small fish that Charlie said could be Greyling, a native fish. There were three cormorants on the lake but ducks have never been seen there, the theory being that it is too high for the ducks to cross the mountains surrounding the lake.

Another thing that pleased me was the lack of blackberries around the lake. Evidently birds have not dropped seed in this area or the environment has not been suitable. Some of the things we saw and heard were a lyrebird (in the Valley of Destruction), possums, the goannas, Orange Hop, varieties of the native *Coprosma* (we thought all of the berries were bitter and rather unpleasant), Native Mint, Hyacinth Orchids (two, well past their prime), the remains of old Trigger plants, *Banksia canei*, Sunshine Wattle just coming into bloom, and the small fish or fingerlings in the streams.

Our Sunday walk was very pleasant, being nearly all down hill. The weather was overcast and although rain threatened it didn't come to anything. All too soon we were back at our 4WD, easing the packs off tired shoulders unused to carrying loads, and feeling very satisfied that we had achieved our goal and enjoyed the beauty of the mountain lake.

After the solitude of the bush, Licola seemed like a humming metropolis as we stopped for an icecream before setting off on our drive back to Valencia Creek.

Valma Plant.

---

JUST FOOD OR A FEAST?

Ollie dropped a piece of wood that split open because it had termites in it. He continued on his way leaving the wood on the ground. When he returned about 20 minutes later the birds were all around it feeding on the termites. There were Blue Wrens, Yellow Robin, Grey Shrike Thrush, Blackbird and a few sparrows. The Blue Wrens in particular love the termites.

Bon Thompson.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 26/7/89

---

Ten members present. Two apologies.

Business arising from previous minutes (of interest):

1. Magazine lending. Suggestion to try from August-November to gauge response.
2. Land Protection Incentive Scheme. D.Moloney, new Flora and Fauna Guarantee Officer wants to inspect area with us and requested a list of plants of significance in Clarke's Road.

Finance:

Balance: \$743.09

General Business (of interest):

1. Friday, September 15, Bairnsdale FMC will provide light tea at 6.00 pm for LVFNC visitors. Excursion to Mt. Elizabeth changed to Saturday 16 to suit us. They can provide some overnight billets (please advise numbers).
2. Bicentennial "Women of the Year". Miss. Jean Galbraith received COMMENDATION AND MEDALLION in this award for women.

Periodicals received:

Australian Ranger Bulletin, Environment Victoria, NT Field Naturalist Club, SGAP and Wildflower Display.

Conservation Co-ordinators Report:

1. J. Blucher presented submission on Greenhouse Strategy.
2. Received copy of Flora and Fauna Guarantee Bill and sent thank you letter.
3. Checked cleaning of Cowwarr Weir which stopped flow in Thomson River.
4. Presented draft submission ideas on Regional Botanic Gardens.
5. Received letter from LCC re Ada Tree information to Melbourne Study Area District 2 Review.
6. Inspected Fire Access Road adjacent to Jeeralang Education Area re Shire of Traralgon Amendment. Attended IPE panel hearing on same.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 7.30pm at YMCA, Morwell.

Supper roster: August 25. Norma Rees and Marilyn Marschalek.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs. G. Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659	7.30pm on <del>4th</del> Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St <u>Moe.</u>
	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> Mrs. F. Savage 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-429251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Curming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. <u>Hall, Bairnsdale.</u>

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SEPTEMBER 1989

ISSUE N<sup>o</sup> 309

# *Latrobe Valley Naturalist*

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY FNC INC.

Meeting: Friday, September 22 at 7.30pm.  
Speaker: Jane Calder on "Overview of Victoria's State and National Parks".  
Excursion: Saturday, September 23.  
Meet Cowwarr Weir Depot at 10.00am.  
Sue Ryswyk will take us to her property to see orchids. Hot water and house shelter will be provided if the weather is bad.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, October 9 (Note: second Monday)  
Meeting place: 10am at Crinigan Road car park for excursion to Crinigan Road Reserve.

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Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park.

October 15. Blackberry slashing and koala survey in Billy's Creek.  
Meet at Tebb Ter. at 1.30pm

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Friends of Mount Worth Park.

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details, phone 056 231563

---

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group.

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.  
Migrant Resource Centre,  
91 George St. Morwell.

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Fourth "Friends of National Parks" Conference

Roses Gap, March 11-13, 1989

The conference was opened on the Saturday afternoon by Ms. Kay Setches, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands. She spoke of the importance of public involvement in Park Management and especially appreciated the voluntary contributions of Friends Groups.

She spoke of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and said that the government was prepared to put their money behind it. She also stated that the government was committed to both the Alpine National Park and a Mallee National Park and to the Wilderness legislation. She finished by launching a new "Touring Guide to Grampians National Park", which was subsequently criticised for not mentioning the "Friends of the Grampians".

Peter Langly (Director of Regional Management, C.F.&L) replied. He emphasised that C.F.& L. should always respond positively to Friends Groups and recognise their "right" as well as interest in being involved in Park management.

He referred to the major topic of the previous conference, a conflict with unions regarding volunteer work in the parks and told us that negotiations with the unions had been amicable and had succeeded in drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding as guidelines for such volunteer work in the future. The previous meeting had asked for a CFL Liaison Officer with the

Friends Groups. One was appointed but has just been replaced with Graham Sutling, Advisory Officer in the Regional Management Office.

The speakers were then exposed to questions from the meeting.

Kay Setches was asked about the enormous on-going problem of litter, particularly drink containers. She appeared to be in agreement as to the need for action. She said that the government had previously given manufacturers notice to clean up their act themselves and felt that no great improvement had occurred and that it was time for the government to review legislation. Someone pointed out the success of a 10 cent a can deposit in South Australia. Can litter stops dead when you cross the border from Victoria into South Australia.

There was extensive discussion of protective burning in parks. General concern was expressed at over-frequent burns tending to change the character of vegetation and often not reducing the fire risk. Many felt that burning was over-done to appease local landowners. The Grampians proved an area of particular concern in this regard.

A panel chaired by Don Saunders, the Director of National Parks Division, then answered questions. Don announced that in regard to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee, each region will have a trained person with specific responsibility for overseeing it. This person, in each region, would be the person to contact if any rare plant at risk is discovered.

Problems of reintroducing native grasses are still unsolved, but research continues, mainly in the Organ Pipes area. Priority is being given by CFL over the next two years to the purchase of remnants of native grasslands around the fringes of the Melbourne area and to look at the important areas in Western Victoria as a whole.



"Friends of National Parks" Conference, March 1989 cont.....

Don also stated that the government is committed to Management Plans for all National Parks within their current term of office. Eric Quinlan informed the meeting that some 1500 kilometres of no longer used railway line existed in Victoria and the land was in the process of being disposed of. Some 700 kilometres are to be handed over to CFL for management as linear reserves. The future of the rest is in the community's hands. If local groups express an interest and a willingness to contribute to their care and management, further sections can be retained as Crown Land and hopefully linear parkland. Otherwise they will be offered to local municipalities who may then sell them to private landowners. I have copies of the full details of which lines are involved and I propose to pass these on to the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists for possible action.

On the Saturday evening, we drove into Halls Gap to the new Grampians National Park Visitors' Centre, where we were entertained by an excellent talk and slide show by Graham Pizzey on the birds of the area with fascinating details of their feeding preferences and techniques. Anyone visiting the Grampians should call at the Visitors' Centre (about 1 km south of Halls Gap), if only to see the magnificent mural in the lecture theatre, portraying many of the plants and animals of the area.

The Sunday morning was devoted to a workshop session. Eight topics were offered and we were able to attend two each. I elected to go to a session on "Environmental Education" chaired by John Reid, who has been working on a Community Education Program in the Dandenong Ranges.

I found this session to be excellent and got several useful ideas from it. The general theme was that the future protection of all parks and of flora and fauna generally is strongly linked to developing a love of the natural environment and that education has a vital role to play.

A strong point was made that it is important to involve children in doing something themselves in the study or management of their local environment; it is of little value simply to talk about it. It was also pointed out that when children have a good experience at one place, they bring their parents there to share the experience with them.

Any project involving children should involve them in all aspects including the planning. Never plan to the last detail and then ask children to do exactly as you tell them.

Selby Primary School have produced their own booklets (selling for \$1.50 each) on the plants of their area. They are written and produced by the children, using direct photocopies of plants for illustration. I shall be attempting to get copies of these and am interested in trying to do something similar, perhaps in Horwell National Park.

Involving children in revegetation is excellent if the children share the whole process, through seed collection, germination, growing and planting.

A "Junior Friends" group as a separate affiliated organization sounds a good plan that we might work towards.

Do we send a copy of our Newsletter to the local press?



"Friends of National Parks" Conference, March 1989 cont.....

The second workshop I attended was "Conducting Nature Walks" led by Sue McInnes. This was disappointing as she merely led a very enjoyable walk but didn't offer or discuss any ideas for the conduct of nature walks in general.

Sunday afternoon was given over to outings. Various outings were available led by people with local knowledge, but I opted to explore some of the area with my family.

On Sunday evening, a speaker from South Australian National Parks Association told us of their Friends of the Parks Organisation. They have been operating since 1980, although most groups have formed since 1984. Some important differences emerged between South Australia and Victoria. In South Australia, Friends Groups are formed by National Parks holding open meetings in the area and actively encouraging the setting up of a group. An important effect of this is that all groups are predominantly locally based (like Friends of Morwell National Park), unlike most Victorian Groups which tend to be Melbourne based.

Another difference of importance to Victoria is that South Australian National Parks have a blanket insurance cover, covering all groups; a vast improvement on the uncertain status current in Victoria.

The evening finished with each of the new (or reconstituted) groups since the last conference giving us a brief run down on their activities. The groups were:

Buckleys Falls - group will start in April

Little Desert National Park - meet annually in the park.

Marine Reserves - reconstituted last year.

Merri Creek - they have achieved remarkable results against initial opposition, which has been won round so that seven local councils along the creek actively support them.  
An interesting group for a visit one day!

Mount Buffalo - rejuvenated and reformed.

Munawading Parks

Queens Park, Lorne

Williamstown Rifle Range - another group who have achieved huge success, taking on the big developers and winning at least so far.

Monday morning concluded the conference with perhaps the most important session, titled "Looking Forward", at which ideas developed during the conference were crystallised into action.

The first topic was "Incorporation and Insurance". It emerged that only two groups, Morwell and Sherbrook, have incorporated so far. Our constitution was offered by VNPA as a model for other groups who may decide to follow our lead.

Reasons for incorporating were given as vesting liability during group activities in the group rather than in individuals and the fact that many possible sources of grants are only open to incorporated bodies. Lengthy discussion of insurance followed during which the following points emerged...

Some accident cover exists through the department.

Legal liability may rest with CFL because all work is with their permission and control.

cont.p.4.....

"Friends of National Parks" Conference, March 1989 cont....

Visiting helpers should be recorded to make sure they are included in any insurance cover. Some groups keep a book in which names of all those present at an outing are entered and signed. CFL have some liability cover for volunteer groups.

VNPL will document the current insurance situation and send it to all groups.

Work Care has an age limit of 16-65 years only!

We learned of an interesting innovation in the Scout and guide Movement, namely "Adopt a Track", where individual troupes will adopt and help to maintain a track in their local park.

A series of important motions were then moved from the floor of the meeting:

Firstly that environmental weeds constitute the greatest conservation threat in Victoria and that the issue be given the highest priority by CFL (currently no work is carried out on this problem by CFL).

In answer to a question on Saturday afternoon, Don Saunders had stated that a knowledge of flora and fauna was no longer an important criterion for selecting rangers and that public relations ability had become the main criterion.

This resulted in the second motion, namely "that this conference views with concern the fact that the prime qualification for rangers is public relations ability and not a knowledge of flora and fauna". The motion went on to ask that such knowledge become an important part of the selection and training of rangers.

The third motion, to be sent to two government ministers, was in relation to the non-returnable food containers and requested a compulsory deposit on all metal, glass and plastic drink containers.

The next conference will be held in two years, once more on the Labour Day weekend.

Ken Harris.

---

BIRD NOTES

Frequent visitors to our garden are a pair of beautiful Bronzewing Pigeons, their iridescent sheen glistening in the sunlight as they lie enjoying the winter sun, or busily searching the undergrowth.

This morning's sighting was particularly special, with the male (I gather) in full flight of his mate. Finally giving up the chase and raising his tail in a fan, he turned his back and wandered off, totally ignoring her.

After a close encounter with a bombing blackbird a minute later (he had to duck for cover), he took flight and landed directly above my viewing window on the roof. His mate then decided the separation had lasted long enough, and joined him on the roof.

Lyn. Simpson



GALAH'S (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) NESTING BEHAVIOUR

At Jeeralang Junction we seldom see Galahs, so when two of them took a marked interest in a limb hole in one of our blue gums, we took an interest in them.

The limb had broken away from the trunk in a self-pruning action, leaving an area of dry rot. The site is about ten metres up the tree.

The birds began work on the hole on April 24 and by the 28 it was obvious they intended to make a nest hole.

Their work hours were leisurely, starting about 9.30 am, knock off about 4 pm, each working for about five minutes. Before the second bird started to "dig", the first one would fly up beside its mate and get its facial feathers and crest sorted out by its mate. While the second bird now dug, the resting bird continued preening for some time. I estimate they have dug out four litres of material.

I have not seen any work done on wet days, nor have I found where they roost. On several occasions, Crimson Rosellas (*Platycercus elegans*) have tried usurping the nest site and have lost the odd tail feather for their trouble. Other Galahs similarly treated now leave the site alone.

By the fifth of May, the birds were seen nipping off small sprays of green leaves from their tree and carrying them into the nest for lining. After eight days of lining activities, it has now become a fairly fixed routine for one bird to sit outside the nest for long periods in the morning and then both leave the site.

It appears that the female is laying a clutch of eggs. When I see further action I will report it.

F.J. Blucher

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EARTH-STARS

I have always found the attractive little earth-stars among the most interesting of the fungi which we see from time to time. They are not like our ordinary mushroom-shaped fungus. Each one is like a little puff-ball with a frill round it - the frill cut into five pointed segments which make the "star" of our earth-star. That is the simplest, and, here at least, commonest of our earth-stars.

Until this time I have never seen more than one, occasionally two, at a time. Today I saw several near my garden gate and pointed them out to Jim Wall when he was here. We went to look, and between us saw 14 earth-stars scattered over about a yard.

That was interesting enough. They were all the familiar species, probably *Geastrum triplex*, known in Europe as well as Australia, but this afternoon I saw two more earth-stars of another species. I cannot name it. It is a *Geastrum*, but more complex than *G. triplex*.

The puff-ball part is the shape of the "onion dome" of an eastern mosque, and it stands on a tiny stalk above a frill of twelve narrow spreading segments.

That morning, in a short walk across the orchard I saw seven species of fungi, not counting the two earth-stars - and I was not even especially looking for them.

Jean Galbraith

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 23/8/89

---

Seven members present. Three apologies.

Business arising from the previous minutes (of interest):

1. Land Protection Incentive Scheme. Meeting at Clarke's Road re pines on 8/8/89.

The pines on both sides of the road are mostly under 2m. occasionally up to 4m. Up to 300mm can be pulled by hand. Over 300mm, lop off at ground level to minimize soil disturbance. Tree lopping shears for those greater than 25mm. Axe up to 25mm. Australian Conservation Volunteers can provide 10 people at \$240/day for this type of activity.

2. Cat sticker Fund. Thanks to Val Plant for steady work selling stickers over the years.

Finance:

Cheque account: \$1181.74

Investment account: \$2005.03

Conservation Acc. \$700.00

Periodicals received:

Aust. Ranger Bulletin	May
Environment	August
NE Naturalist	July
Geelong Naturalist	Winter
SCAP	August

General Business: (of interest)

Program Planning Meeting. Club members able to give ideas, preferences at September meeting.

DCFL Grant to Conservation and Environment Groups. Sec. to apply for \$800. D.Thompson has prepared details. Due 29/9/89.

Landscape Committee report (J.Wall): LRC would like sites and species of trees prepared for World Environment Day, June 1990. Suggestions for signposting entrances to towns and submissions on highway planting strategy.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

J.Blucher prepared submission on SEC and Greenhouse Effect. Members met Damien Maloney at Clarke's Road re application for grant to remove wilding pines.

Met D.Maloney and E.Ward (DCFL) and D.Macreadie at Dawson re Sale FMC grant for reserve.

Checked posts at Boola Boola Reserve, and Peg, Jim, Ollie and I planted seedling trees near posts at each end of revegetation area in hope of keeping out bikes etc.

John Neville has no information re bridge at Raymond Island. Club has received correspondence between DCFL and DPE re Boola Boola Reserve.

Checked special plants on Peterson's Lookout Track with Miss. Jean Galbraith for David Benson for Virilda Management Plan. Also provided much information on Virilda and Tyers Regional Park for same plan.

Have photos for significant tree register for National Trust. Submission on Regional Botanic Gardens.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 7.30pm. YNCA Morwell.

Supper roster: Friday, September 22: Iris Peterson and Nora O'Reilly



STOP PRESS!!!

LVFNC BOAT TRIP

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 1989

Leaving Paynesville at 11am and returning to Paynesville at 3pm.

Emphasis on bird life, including stop at Rotamah Island Bird Observatory, and possibly visit silt jetties, Bunga Arm etc.

40 foot boat licensed to carry 49 passengers.

Charter fee \$280 regardless of numbers.

DYO lunch, morning and afternoon tea etc.

Skipper Mike Sutton is a qualified environmentalist as well as being a keen birder and can show and tell about erosion and fragmites (native water rush) degradation.

To be a viable proposition we must have at least 20 people definitely going by Friday September 22, 1989.

Cost for 20 people will be \$14 per head. For 30 people \$10 per head.

If unable to attend September meeting please ring :

Acting Secretary Wendy Savage 056 342246  
or President Jane Purbrick 051 221118

before Friday September 22 if possible.

If transport is required, contact Philip Rayment on 051 221050 who has several people with cars available.

If possible, please pay \$10 deposit at September meeting. Otherwise please forward a cheque to the Treasurer, P.O.Box 169, Newborough. 3825. by Wednesday October 11.

After that date the trip will be opened to outsiders.

Jane Purbrick.





## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659	7.30pm on <del>4th</del> Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St <u>Moe.</u>
	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, <u>Raymond St Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Curming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. <u>Hall, Bairnsdale.</u>

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY FNC INC.

Meeting: Friday, October 27 at 7.30 pm  
Speaker: Sid Cook on "Reptiles"  
Excursion: Saturday, October 28 ---Boat trip.  
Meet at 10.30 am at Fisherman's Wharf  
at Paynesville. Return to Paynesville by  
3.30 pm. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES!!

Proposed itinerary for boat trip:

10.30 am Depart Paynesville for Sperminwhale Head.  
11.10 Arrive and observe wildlife, then walk  
as per CFL map to see vegetation.  
12.00 Go to Rotamah Is. for lunch, wildlife  
and birdhide.  
1.10 Travel to Steamer Landing observing  
waterbirds.  
2.10 Arrive and walk to Ninety Mile Beach,  
birdlife and vegetation.  
2.45 Depart for Paynesville arriving at 3.30.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, November 6.  
Meeting place: 10.00 am at the corner of Clark's Road  
and Tyers-Yallourn North Road (at bridge)  
for excursion to Wirilda.

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Warragul FNC Contact Secretary for details.

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Friends of Morwell National Park

November 19. Koala survey and Butterfly Orchid survey.  
Meet at Fosters Gully at 1.30 pm.

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Friends of Mount Worth Park

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

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Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm  
Amalgamated Metal Workers Building,  
37 Elgin St., Morwell.

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SPUR WINGED PLOVER

On Thursday the 14th we were driving along the road next to the railway tracks when I saw two spur winged plovers. One was sitting on a nest and the other was watching. Next Monday when we passed the spur winged plovers had four chicks. One of the parents went across the road then one chick then the other parent went across then another chick but the other two chicks were on the other side. They ran across but a car stopped them in the middle of the road but one of the parents came out and was squawking and had its wings out to stop the car and the chicks ran across the road. They were across the road safely. Then the family walked off.

Clare Savage (9)

---

AT THE ZOO

When we got to the zoo it was cold but then it warmed up later on. The people who were supposed to be taking us on the tour didn't come until 11 am so we had time to look around. Grandma, Jessie and I looked at the gorillas and monkeys. We saw Muzuri in with five other monkeys that were asleep. They looked cute. There was one monkey all by himself. Then it was time to go on the guided tour so we went back to the gate and there were three ladies. Our group got a lady called Jenny. She was nice.

First she took us to see the different kinds of monkeys. They were playing. I liked them. Then we saw the butterfly house. Inside it was hot. I was wearing my pink coat and a butterfly kept on coming on me. Then we went to the great flight aviary. There were lots of birds. We saw the Bower Bird's nest; it was all blue.

Then we had lunch. I had a pie and chips and an icy pole. Then Grandma, Jessie and I looked around by ourselves. We saw the gorillas again. The man was sulking in a corner so the lady started showing off. She climbed up a tree and did a wee. Then she started sniffing and licking her nose then she picked it. I liked the gorillas best.

Then we went to the gift shop. Before we went I got a present and one for my sister; then we went home on the bus.

The End.

Helen Dixon (10)

---

WE ALL WENT TO THE ZOO, Zoo, zoo....

The weather forecast for Saturday, 26th August was not very encouraging. Nevertheless, twenty-four intrepid travellers set out bright and early for Melbourne Zoo.

At Clayton, we bade "au revoir" to Barry Traill - our Friday night speaker, who left us after hitching a lift home.

On arrival at the zoo, we eventually met up with our guides

cont.p.2.....



WE ALL WENT TO THE ZOO, Zoo, zoo....cont...

for the day - volunteers from the Friends of the Zoo League. We were divided into three groups, each with its own guide. Jennifer, who was allocated to us, explained that a period of training, a test and three months' probation in the field was the required procedure for becoming a Zoo Guide and each guide is on duty one day each fortnight.

First, Jenny led us to the Arboreal Primates enclosure. This animal family never fails to delight and entertain with its human-like behaviour. One of the Lowland gorillas - an old male - was obviously at odds with his mate (and the world). Luddling in a corner, chewing his fingers he ignored all attempts to wheedle him out of his bad humour. Maybe he will cheer up when he and his family transfer to their new home. An enlarged enclosure being constructed for them on the site of the Panda Exhibition area. As we paused to admire the silky black and white coats of the Madagascar Lemurs, enjoyed the antics of the Spider Monkeys, and were charmed by the tiny golden-haired Lion Tamarins, a very vocal Gibbon could be heard loudly proclaiming his territorial rights.

Our next venue was the ever-popular Butterfly House where the colourful lepidoptra seemed to be more abundant than on our previous visit. In fact we were told that two new species had recently been introduced. Some were greatly attracted to the woolly headgear sported by the Evens and Helen's pink anorak.

Of course, the walk-through aviary was a "must". With its large variety of birds it is always of special interest and just a few of this day's highlights were the masked plover that seemed to follow us, the satin bower bird chasing his mate away from his treasury of blue objects and the blue-winged kookaburra gulping down a whole mouse in just a few swallows.

Time was racing by and we were due to rejoin the other two groups so we paid a flying visit to the Platypussery, caught a brief glimpse of the infant giraffe who had been rejected by his mother, quickly passed by the lethargic lions, the pacing panther, the somnolent snow leopards and other large cats. And so on to the Lakeside Bistro area where, after thanking our guides, we went in search of lunch.

After satisfying the "inner man" we set off on our own. We seemed to have a disastrous effect on the bladder control of the elephants and some other creatures we looked at as we sought out the zebra! They were proving elusive to us and made us appreciate the value of having a guide. Jenny had told us that zoos trade their surplus animals, each having its own speciality animals. She said that Dubbo Zoo was especially interested in the hoofed animals, particularly zebra and giraffes. After looking in at Reptile House, passing the tapirs, bison, hippo etc we finally tracked down our objective just before it was time to make our way back to the exit.

Having counted heads, Jane ushered us back to the bus and soon we were homeward bound. Once again, a very successful and enjoyable Field Naturalists' Day. Those who opted out certainly missed a treat.



LITTLE TERNS BY JOAN VINCENT

Our guest speaker for April was Joan Vincent from Bairnsdale. Joan and her late husband were keen bird watchers and we enjoyed the excellent slides she brought along.

Joan's special interest has become the terns which frequent the beaches near her home. Little Terns and Fairy Terns visit to breed, but it was the Little Tern (*Sterna sinensis*) and its requirements that was the subject of her talk.

Colonies of the birds nest around south-eastern Australia in the vicinity of the Gippsland Lakes. The Australian population of Little Terns is endangered, with fewer than 500 nesting pairs remaining. The survival of nesting populations is threatened by the presence of humans and domestic and feral animals on beaches and on off-shore islands, where there are increasing numbers of visitors.

The birds favoured breeding places are open, sandy stretches on beaches and estuaries and these areas are also favoured by humans as recreation spots. The birds require nearby dunes, and will not utilize the area if it becomes too vegetated, sometimes moving instead to floodprone beaches with disastrous results.

The birds are faithful to a site and will return to preferred beaches provided they are maintained in a suitable condition. The nest site is little more than a scrape in the sand between the high tide and the vegetation of the dunes.

Experienced birds (terns have been known to live to 21 years) can expect to lay three eggs, and new parents less. The hatched birds spend three days around the nest and then move to the cover of the grass in the dunes, partly to escape the extreme heat of the nesting site. They fledge at three weeks, but are still fed small fish by the parents.

Each pair of Little Terns probably needs to raise to fledgling an average of one young per year in order to maintain a stable population. The average fledgling success in Victoria over the last ten years is 0.5 fledglings per year, or one for each two pairs. As the adult birds can live to 21 years populations have remained stable, but a decline is probable in the future.

Breeding difficulties with terns are a problem world-wide. In 1979 Joan visited America where considerable effort is made to protect the birds by fencing in large areas of beaches and planting decoy birds to attract terns to suitable areas (this ploy has not worked here). "Tern Sitters" is a world-wide organisation, and in the United Kingdom terns are considered the rarest breeding species.

Recently, on Rigby Island, the Fisheries and Wildlife Department has put up eight-strand electric fences and employed ten wardens to guard the nesting area, so after much effort Joan feels that the importance of the birds is at last being recognised.

It had been noted this year that twenty hybrids (cross between Little and Fairy Tern) were bred. Whether this is a bad sign is not yet clear.

To conclude the evening, Joan showed us a selection of slides taken around the south-eastern beaches and finishing up with one of a most unusual visitor - a King Penguin.



FRASER ISLAND AND SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

Mr. Andy Blackburn, our speaker for the evening 23rd June, opened his talk by outlining his interests in geology and wild-flower photography, especially on his trip to Fraser Island and south-east Queensland.

Commencing at Brisbane with members of a Naturalist Club (whose interests held a wide range of nature studies) he travelled by road to Rainbow Beach which lies on the coast between Gympie and Maryborough. A couple of days was spent in the adjacent Cooloolo National Park before crossing to Fraser Island. This was accomplished by barge and four-wheel drive vehicles. On the island, five nights were spent at Eurong Village and four-wheel drive vehicles were used for touring most parts of the countryside.

1. Fraser Island has been described as "the largest sand island in the world". It has an area of 184,000 hectares, a length of 123 kilometres and an average width of 14 kilometres, ranging up to 22 kilometres at its widest.

The dunes reach a height of 240 metres and the sand extends 600 metres below sea level. It is composed almost entirely of loose sand brought up from northern New South Wales by wave action and a long shore drift. It is anchored in place by three small pegs of ancient volcanic rock.

If you consider each grain of sand to be a tiny sphere, the spaces between the grains amounts to 48% of the total volume. Because of the high rainfall on Fraser Island, this space is occupied by fresh water, some 600 cubic kilometres of it. This accounts largely for the luxuriant growth of vegetation, particularly on the east coast where essential minerals are supplied by seaspray brought in by the persistent south-easterly trade winds.

The island is noted for the large number of freshwater lakes. Many of these are "window lakes" formed wherever the hollows between the sand dunes dip below the water table. Others are "perched lakes" formed in the dunes high above the water table when humus and sand combine to form an impervious layer.

2. The elements which go to make up the crust of the earth may best be demonstrated by examining a piece of granite, preferably coarse grained and pink.

The clear glassy granules are composed of silica which is inactive chemically and is broken down mechanically to produce sand.

The pink or white opaque crystals belong to the felspar group of silicates of Sodium, Potassium, Calcium and Aluminium. These in turn will decompose into clay and soluble materials which may enter into new combinations. For instance, the Calcium is taken up by marine animals to form their shells, which may accumulate to produce limestone.

The third component is usually darker and heavier and belongs to a complex group of silicates containing, in addition, Iron and Magnesium. They may be replaced, in part, by shining flakes of mica.

If the three groups of minerals solidify slowly from a magma deep in the crust of the earth, a coarse crystalline granite rock is formed, but variations in the proportions of the



FRASER ISLAND AND SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND cont...

components and eruption at the surface leading to rapid cooling will produce other igneous rocks such as basalt or dacite. Following the mechanical and chemical breakdown of these primary rocks the solid end products may be sorted, transported, redeposited and consolidated to form a secondary generation of sedimentary rocks.

The soluble materials may precipitate out either chemically or as the skeletons of marine animals adding further to the complexity.

The igneous and sedimentary rocks of various origins and compositions subject to a range of macro and microclimatic conditions, are the parents of a variety of soils which, in turn, influence the plant species found in the area.

3. The range of wild flower species is largely controlled by the habitat, which, in turn, is dependent on the geology and geomorphology.

Andy's talk was illustrated by slides showing a map of the island with surrounding areas and flora of the district.

At the conclusion of the evening, the President gave a vote of thanks and presented Andy with a gift for his most interesting and informative talk.

Jim Wall

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CAN MICE SWIM?

Tests are being undertaken at Tyers to determine the ability of mice to swim. This came about as a result of feeding three Superb Wrens (one blue, two brown) on the step outside one of our window doors which is not used for foot traffic.

The wrens have been feeding on grated cheese placed under an inverted wire hanging basket, to deter large birds, for some time now. Recently, a very tiny mouse has discovered the feast, and darts in and out of the ivy around the steps. Blue wren was quite brave at first, but the jennies stood with their skirts hoisted up, clearly shrieking "mouse". Blue is now also reduced to a shuddering, twittering mess, so something must be done.

Today I put the cheese in a small shallow dish, placed in a large shallow dish filled with water - thus forming a moat around the cheese. The wrens are happy - I haven't spotted the mouse as yet.

Val Larson

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EDITORS NOTE

Would all contributors to the Naturalist please make sure they sign their articles.

I have two unidentified articles at the moment; one is the write up on Garry Richardson's talk "The Invisible World" and the other a write up on the Bairnsdale weekend in September.

Ed.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 20/9/89

Seven members present. Four apologies.

Finance: Cheque acc. \$1115.84  
Invest. acc. \$2005.03  
Conservation acc. \$ 700.00

Periodicals received:

CF & L Issues and Management Alternatives for the Gipps.  
Lakes.

Environment Victoria	Sept.
Nature Territory	July/Aug
Nature Territory	Sept/Oct
SGAP Maroondah	Sept

Vic. Naturalist

West Victoria C.C Newsletter, April and August

General Business (of interest):

1. Children's Day, Shire of Morwell, Kernot Hall, Oct. 22.  
Request by organising committee for display/activity to  
promote awareness of the environment. B. Thompson will  
contact CFL re us assisting with their material.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

1. Secretary of Sale FNC contacted us re private pine  
plantation in Rosedale Shire.
2. Received reply for Botanic Gardens submission and  
Greenhouse submission. We have received further information  
about Greenhouse and request permission to forward a further  
submission.
3. Sent off prints and information re register of significant  
trees of Victoria to National Trust.
4. Received Issues and Management Alternatives for the Gipps.  
Lakes. Meeting October 8.
5. Draft submissions for this month:  
Jim Blucher prepared CFL Proposed Fire Protection Plan  
for Central Gippsland Region.  
State Plantation Impact Study with Issues and Options.  
Meeting Yarram October 27.  
Narracan Shire re Water Catchment area.

Next meeting: Wed. October 25, 7.30 pm. YMCA Morwell.

Supper roster: October 27. Doreen Chipman and Pat Delahey



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

### DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.</u>	Mrs. G. Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O. Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659	7.30pm on <del>4th</del> Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St <u>Moe.</u>
	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cuming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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P.O. Box 169  
Newborough 3825

NATURALIST \$10.00      FAMILY \$20.00      SINGLE MEMBER \$15.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited  
from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor  
Mrs. Pam Petschack  
8 Church St  
Trafalgar 3824

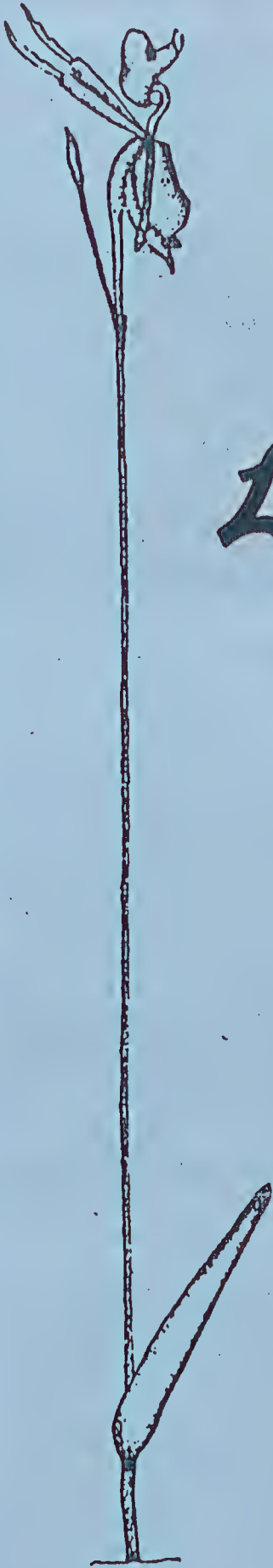
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**85¢**

COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY FNC INC.

Meeting: Friday, November 24 at 7.30 pm  
Speaker: Mick Barton on "Spiders"  
Excursion: Saturday, November 25 to Tarra Valley/  
Bulga Park. (unrelated to spiders)  
Meet at 10.30 am at Tarra Valley Picnic  
area. Lunch at Tarra Valley and then on  
to Bulga Park in the afternoon.  
Maps available at meeting on 24/11/89.  
Christmas breakup: Saturday, December 9 at Andy Ringin's  
property at Coalville.  
Working bee prior to this on Saturday,  
December 2. All welcome!

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Warragul FNC Contact Secretary for details

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Friends of Morwell National Park

December 17 Working bee in Billy's Creek as relevant  
to Management Plan.  
End of year BYO barbeque and reflection  
on the year's activities.

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Friends of Mount Worth Park

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.  
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

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Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm  
Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building  
37 Elgin St., Morwell

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FUNGI TALK BY ELLEN LYNDON, MAY 26, 1989

At our May meeting we were entertained by Mrs. Ellen Lyndon who gave us a lively and interesting talk on fungi. We learned that the study of fungi can be fascinating and that this immense assemblage of plants effect reproduction by means of microscopic spores. The fungi lack chlorophyll and thus cannot use the sun's energy to produce carbohydrate foods as green plants do. They must obtain their food from that already processed by other plants and animals, parasitically from living organisms or saprophitically from dead organic matter.

Some mycologists conclude that the fungi have evolved from the algae while others incline to think that they have a common ancestor in the protozoa (the lowest form of animal life) that branched in a different direction during an early stage of evolution. We are left wondering whether they be plant or animal? Biologists have argued for centuries about this and some have even mooted the setting up of a third kingdom for them. Somewhere around 200,000 species have been so far recorded and these have been classified into Divisions, Orders, Families, Genera and Species. Amateurs have endless fun chasing them up and down these steps and stairs.

Fungi have been known to us and used by mankind for thousands of years. People were experimenting with them as food by a process of trial and error centuries before the time of Christ. Many sorts are indeed edible and good, many others are quite eatable and harmless but are not very attractive to the palate, being tough or bitter or just plain unappetising. Most of the really deadly ones belong to the Amanita family and until we know more about them all members are best avoided when collecting for the table. Some folk are allergic to certain types, eg. the Yellow-staining Mushroom. Some can eat it with impunity, others are seriously sickened by it. The little fawn Fairy Ring Mushroom (*Marasmius oreades*) that pops up in lawns, smelling so curiously of almonds or prussic acid, is edible and delicious. So are the puffballs, (*Lycoperdon* spp.), if taken in the firm white stage. The subterranean portion of Blackfellows Bread (*Polyporus mylittae*) collected in its soft "honeycombe" stage is said to have been relished by the Aborigines.

To survive fungi need moisture and oxygen. They come in a bewildering array of colours and shapes with the first autumn rains. They range from enormous football-sized ones to others so tiny they may only be visible under the microscope. Fungi enthusiasts love to photograph, collect or eat them. The fine white threads that sometimes come up on the ends of the mushroom stems are not rootlets but are part of the underground body of the fungus, the mycelium. This is composed of fine white threads called hyphae massing together. When conditions are right for fruiting little bumps appear on the mycelium and push up through the soil to expand into what we know as mushrooms and toadstools. Many of the showy European fungi are believed to have arrived in this country with exotic trees. European people, now living here, have gradually introduced us to the edible possibilities of many of these fungi.

cont. p.2.....



FUNGI TALK BY ELLEN LYNDON, MAY 26, 1989 cont.....

Some fungi species cause great loss and damage to food crops, such as grapes and cereals that are affected by rusts and smuts. In the early years of last century, potato blight decimated the main food crops of the Irish people resulting in starvation and finally mass migration to Australia and America. Humans and animals may also be subject to fungal afflictions such as tinea and ringworm. Cinnamon Fungus causes die-back of forest timbers and other plants. On the credit side we must weigh up the beneficial fungi, including all the yeasts and the penicillium fungi which have given us the wonder drugs and penicillin, as well as the tasty blue cheeses.

Most fungi specialists elect to study only one branch of the great world of fungi and concentrate on that. Generally amateur naturalists are attracted to the large photogenic and colourful kinds that may be seen on a fungus foray. We do not often come across one of the curious frothy slime moulds that moves slowly across the leaf mould engulfing bacteria as it goes. When full fed they become stationary and harden up to produce fruiting bodies. One of the microscopic moulds Dactyella actually has the power to trap and consume minute worms. To do this it produces three-celled loops resembling slipknots which trap and hold the prey. There are many such interesting stories as one delves into the literature and it is recommended that all good naturalists remember to do their homework!

As a follow-up to Mrs Lyndon's talk some beautiful slides of local fungi were shown by Jack and Nancy Brooks. They included the Oyster Fungus, now being grown commercially; Cordyceps species; Honey Fungus; Beech Orange; Ox-tongue, and a specially fine slide of the green Chlorosplenium aeruginosum, the wood stainer.

Mrs Lyndon and Mr and Mrs Brooks were presented with tokens of appreciation and the vote of thanks carried with applause.

Doreen Chipman

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FUNGI WALK IN THE STRZELECKI STATE FOREST, MAY 27, 1989

Several members and friends of the club assembled at 10 am in the Lyrebird Walk carpark opposite the pumping station in the Strzelecki State Forest. As the day was overcast and coolish, the walk was preceded by a welcome, warming "cuppa".

Ellen Lyndon led this field trip which was to cap off an interesting season held the previous night. This combined a talk and some excellent slides, and gave us some insight into the complexity, diversity and minutiae of the fungal world (most fungi are microscopic) as well as the difficulties in classifying them. It would appear that common names are constant whilst the botanical names are in a perpetual state of flux.

Armed variously with Fuhrer's "Companion to Australian Fungi" and other references; cameras, for the serious and skilled photographers and shopping bags for the gastronomes, we began. Our powers of minute observation developed consid-

cont.p.3.....



FUNGI WALK IN THE STRZELECKI STATE FOREST, MAY 27, 1989

cont.....

erably in the course of the day as many fungi could easily be passed by unless pointed out. Ellen, as our fount of knowledge, did admirably in naming the genera to which various specimens belonged.

Most fungi are microscopic, therefore our walk was concerned with the macroscopic species (those seen with the naked eye). Some of the bigger specimens were the Boletes. Rusty brown marks occurring at the base of a specimen indicates that it is a Cortinariu species, where the rust brown spores stick to the base of the stem. Coral fungi, as their name suggests, were coral-like in appearance with simple to branched clubs. The specimens we observed were edible and had a faintly peppery taste. Some species were quite cup-like eg. *Peziza repanda*; some tremulous and jelly-like, *Tremella* species; and others were hard, woody and pored, bracket fungi.

It was observed that some fungi actually infect other fungi, as is the case when an aged fruiting body has a hairy growth of mould on its cap.

The Cordyceps species or vegetable caterpillars, a genus which parasitises larval insects, eluded us. This was despite them being relatively common and our searching around the bases of several silver wattle trees.

One of our gastronomes who had collected a large bagful of saffron milk cap, *Lactarius deliciosus*, was eagerly looking forward to a meal of this leathery, strong flavoured fungus - much better than mushrooms was the assurance.

Our day finished with a visit to the big tree at Darlimurla. This is a mountain grey gum which was assessed, by rule of thumb, to be in the vicinity of 55-60 metres high.

FUNGI LISTAgaric (fungi with gills)

*Cortinariu* spp. blue, purple  
*Amanita punctata*  
*Amanita muscaria* (fly agaric)  
*Hypholoma sublateritium*  
*Marasmiu* spp.  
*Mycena interrupta* (pixies  
parasol)  
*Russula mariae*  
*Psilocybe subaeruginosa*  
*Laccaria laccata* deceiver  
*Pholiota* sp. (fringed agaric)  
*Lactarius deliciosus* (saffron  
milk cap)

Boletes (fleshy pore fungi)

*Paxillus infundibuliformis*  
*Phaeogyroporus portentosus*  
(pinecone mushroom)

Clavarias (coral fungi)

*Ramaria* sp.  
*Clavicornia pyxidata* (peppery  
coral fungus)

Gasteromycetes puffballs  
earthstarsPolypores (pores tough and  
woody)

Cup fungi *Peziza repanda*

bracket fungi

Jelly fungi *Tremella fuciformis*

### THE INVISIBLE WORLD

Gary Richardson was the speaker at the July meeting of LVFNC. Gary is a High School teacher, whose subject is biology and the use of microscopes. He has been fascinated by the microscope since the age of nine and his enthusiasm showed as he set up his equipment. During the setting up process we watched a video detailing the parts of the microscope, then when all was ready, we were treated to many visual delights.

Gary had brought slides from the Field Naturalists' slide collection and some of our members had brought along specimens for viewing through the microscope. When the microscope was hooked up to the television screen, we were all able to view these things simultaneously.

We watched the screen, entranced, as wasp antennae appeared showing joints and fine hairs and delicately translucent wings. Jewels were then shown, mauve, orange, green, yellow discs - the cross section of the spine of a sea urchin. A dust mite, that invisible creature that makes many of us sneeze, performed for us, making many of us squirm. Then, in a pond water specimen we saw a volvox and a water flea.

Leaving the animal kingdom we turned to plants. A liverwort was shown with its reproductive cup like a beautiful translucent yellow flower with a hair-like structure deep inside the cup. The liverwort reproduce asexually and have stomata like spores. Mosses are related to the liverwort and these showed individual cells. The capsules, like salt and pepper shakers, tan when ripe, but green earlier, contain spores. A ripe one was shown moving rhythmically as if to catapult spores.

The individual flowers in the head of compositae are exquisite when seen at such magnification, but the underside of a fern showed spores looking like uninviting blobs of jelly.

A cup fungus contained an insect which was very small, even at high magnification. Its actual size was beyond our comprehension.

Other interesting specimens were a budgerigar's feather, the skeleton of a leaf revealing its intricate structure, and a tiny cacti, whose owner thought it was being attacked by an insect which turned out to be a miniscule white flower. Finally we were shown a section of granite showing a polarising effect.

What wonders abound, unknown and unnoticed around us. Unseen by human eye, these minute organisms and structure were shown to be as real as the visible world. We were grateful that Gary had revealed them to us.

Florence Blucher



ARE WE AT THE RIGHT LOCATION? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? --

AN EXCURSION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

In the July "Naturalist" the excursion rules were officially published so that all members would be aware of them. The July excursion, therefore, would be expected to be a model of organisation and efficiency. Note the word EXPECTED. To begin with, because we were just visiting two ponds some six or so kilometres apart near Hooe and the council were pressed for time at their meeting, they in their wisdom omitted to appoint a leader. Mr Gary Richardson, the previous night's speaker and expert on organisms minute and microscopic, is not a local, so while he was present giving of his expertise once we arrived, he could not direct or lead us from (a) to (b) etc.

Things did not go right from the time we set off from the meeting place at the Hooe Education Centre. We were heading for the Edward Hunter Heritage Reserve, and would you believe it - we ended up in two parties in the Reserve, each in its own special car park, separated by the width of the Reserve. Eventually we were united around the pond.

At last ready to move off to another pond on the Haunted Hills Road, our worthy President appointed a leader in each car park and off we set again to meet over the railway line after finding one road had been closed off. Eventually we all arrived in ones and occasionally twos. By this time we had a leader for the whole group - someone who knew exactly where the next pond was. However, he did not bargain on traffic lights changing and dividing roads. As he commented in exasperation while watching everyone going up the hill on a different road to himself, we had nine cars and it seemed as if each had gone its own different way. Yes, we did come together again and ended up at the next pond under the surveillance of a security patrol.

Consequently, much of the morning set aside for collecting was spent sitting in cars wondering where on earth everyone was. Thank God for a sense of humour - there were no harsh words or obviously frayed tempers and we did find a good selection of micro-organisms to look at on the video screen in the afternoon as I will now describe, but first a note or two about the two ponds.

The pond in the Edward Hunter Heritage Reserve is fed from a spring on the Yarragon Monocline and was originally used as a source of water for steam locomotives. It is now very muddy with a strong growth of water reeds. The other pond seemed to be a natural drainage at the bottom of a hill; again was reedy and muddy and obviously a source of water for cattle. Basically, we obtained a greater variety of organisms at the first locality.

Although we had borrowed four microscopes from Maryvale High School, to whom we are most grateful, we gained greater benefit by sitting and watching the video screen as Gary Richardson placed various organisms under the microscope to which the video camera was attached. Several small fish were caught, one kind presenting a problem as to whether it was fish or tadpole until its rayed tail fin was noticed.

ARE WE AT THE RIGHT LOCATION? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? -

AN EXCURSION WITH A DIFFERENCE cont....

On putting this tail fin under the microscope it was possible to see the blood flowing in the arteries and the veins. That in the arteries lying in the rays of the tail fin was moving faster than the blood in the veins; the former flowing away from the heart, the latter back towards the heart. Later we also looked at the tail fin of a tadpole and were able to see individual red blood corpuscles, pulse in the arteries, and the way the blood banked up where the blood vessels branched.

Out of the Hunter Reserve water we found a flagellated alga rotating on its axis as it swam, the flagella being visible and the whole resembling the globular Pandorina; a nematode worm. The water flea, Daphnia, with its beating dorsal heart, moving appendages and the peristalsis of its intestine all visible through its transparent carapace. A water boatman with its hairy legs, a water mite (eight legs not six) and a Cyclops with two egg clusters. Cyclops is so named because the adult retains the single larval nauplian eye and never develops two compound eyes as do most other crustacea.

As well we saw a Collembola or spring tail, a primitive insect related to the silver fish and other items such as copper sulphate crystals and sea urchin spines in section under the polaroid filter. Part of a butterfly's wing and a peacock feather, both of which gave colour by iridescence and reflected light from pigments; a sundew leaf and the gills of a toadstool. Finally Madge Vinnell showed us a South Australian video "How to Identify Ducks". Thank you Madge.

Altogether we had a fascinating afternoon after a very frustrating morning.

Barbara Nielsen

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ENDANGERED SPECIES

The August meeting of the Club was addressed by Darry Traill who spoke on endangered species and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG).

A brief explanation of the above Act was given. The legislation, which was passed by the Victorian Government last September, will replace a number of former Acts which treated the environment in a piecemeal manner. The Act takes a completely new approach to native species' protection. Its goal is to ensure that all Victoria's native species of flora and fauna, ecosystems and communities survive, flourish and evolve in the wild. It recognises the importance of protecting entire ecosystems, with all classes of plants and animals considered together, and without regard to their public appeal or economic importance.

cont.p.7.....



ENDANGERED SPECIES cont.....

The Act applies to marine, freshwater and dry land environments and habitats, including public and private land. The legislation is particularly designed to control endangering processes which are the underlying cause of extinction, repair habitat damage and prevent further damage to critical habitats. The Act is potentially very powerful. One possible weakness is that it does give the Minister discretionary powers. This could mean that the discretionary option may be to do nothing. For particular issues sufficient public lobbying from interest groups, such as LVFHC Inc., should prevent this being a problem.

Barry approved of the fact that the Act concentrates attention on communities. He went on to speak of the loss of habitat as being one of the greatest threats to our native flora and fauna. Vast areas of land have been cleared for farming. A map of Victoria showed just how extensive this is. Clearing is still going on in Western Victoria. Woodlands are disappearing and this means loss of habitat. The Koowee-rup Swamp, once the largest in Victoria, was drained early this century, its species never having been documented. The urban sprawl is also responsible for the loss of many habitats, though surprisingly, there are still small pockets of bush-land in some urban areas.

Some Victorian flora and fauna has already been lost. These include the rat kangaroo and the pig footed bandicoot. No birds have been lost. Many Victorian species are endangered and for some of these it may already be too late to save them. Approximately 700 species are at risk and of these the following are particularly noteworthy:

Helmeted honeyeater (for which it may already be too late)	
Smokey mouse	Leadbeater's possum
Blackeared miner	Long footed poteroo
Tiger quoll	Insects have up to now been ignored

The factors endangering all these species include clearing, as mentioned above, which while it may not entirely destroy habitat, brings about subtle changes to the communities of plants and animals. This makes survival for some species more tenuous. Other factors which lead to extinction of species are poorly understood and include fire regimes and water pollution.

Priorities have not been set in the past. Last ditch attempts to save the species could have been avoided with suitable planning. A broad preventative approach is needed.

Preservation efforts, to date, have tended to concentrate on cute furry things, which of course attract public attention. So far, flora and fauna conservation has mostly been a case of too little too late. It is to be hoped that the FFG will change this.

Central to the FFG is a listing process. This will require input from groups, such as ours, who are both concerned and knowledgeable about the natural environment. There will also need to be a great input of money from the State Government.

The FFG Act is potentially powerful and will fill a vacuum. It should be operating in full by Christmas 1989. It is to be hoped that it will not in any way be watered down and that sufficient funding will be made available.

Florence Blucher

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFMC ON 25/10/89

Seven members present. Three apologies.

Finance: Cheque account            \$185.61  
          Investment acc.            \$2005.03  
          Conservation acc.        \$700.00

Periodicals received:

Geelong Naturalist            Spring  
Environment Victoria        October  
SGAP maroondah                October

General Business: (of interest)

1. Christmas Breakup: Dec. 9. Andy Ringin's property is available. Working bee on Dec. 12.
2. Petrol money for guest speakers - only offer if asked. Allow \$20 for travel from Melb. or Bairnsdale. Proportionate amount for smaller distances. Any larger requests to be brought to Business meeting.

Conservation Co-ordinator's report:

Ken Savage attended the Management Plan of Gippsland Lakes meeting at Traralgon. Ellen Lyndon attended same at Sale.

Carried out census of plants on road reserve on south side of railway line opposite McGauran's property for the Latrobe Regional Commission.

Carrying out census of Peterson's Lookout area in preparation for management plans due out soon for Moondarra State Park and Tyers Regional Park. This area is also in area for proposed regular burning in DCFL Fire Protection Plan.

Latrobe Regional Commission may incorporate pulling pines on Clark's Road by senior students for part of schools' efforts for World Environment Day, 1990.

Presented draft submission on Issues and Management Alternatives for the Gippsland Lakes.

Should we do another census of West Gully at Yallourn North before the SEC burn the area this year?

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 22, 7.30 pm  
YMCA Morwell.

Supper roster: Friday, November 24. Jessie Burns and  
Dorothy Farrow.

STOP PRESS!! Exhibition of work by Neil Douglas at Carole's  
Art Gallery, 112 Foster St., Sale.  
Saturday November 25 to Friday December 15.  
Neil Douglas is a noted Australian artist,  
naturalist, author and conservationist.



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	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St <u>Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, <u>Bairnsdale.</u>

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DECEMBER 1989

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COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY FNC Inc.

Meeting: Friday January 19 at 7.30 pm

Speaker: Members' slide night: "The Best of 1989".

Excursion: Australia Day Weekend January 27-29  
Annual campout at Licola  
See page 5 for details

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Warragul FNC Contact Secretary for details

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Friends of Mount Worth Park

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

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Australian Conservation Foundation local group

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm

Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building  
37 Elgin St., Morwell

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# Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists CLUB INC.

## 1990 PROGRAMME

### JANUARY

19th	Members' Night	Best of 1989 photography
26th-29th	Camp-out at Licola	Traralgon H.S. Camp

### FEBRUARY

23rd.	Norm Williams	Photography for field naturalists
24th	Loch Sport with the local club	

### MARCH

23rd	Stephen Guest & A.G.M	Forestry & Conservation
24th	Erica & district	

### APRIL

27th	Arthur Thiess	Mosses
28th	Glen Nayook	

### MAY

25th	Hilary Weatherhead	Fungi
26th	Mt. Worth	

### JUNE

22nd	David Thomas	Life cycle of a river.
23rd	Tyers River - Moondarra	

### July

27th	Beverley van Pragh	Worms
28th	Visit to property to see worms	

### AUGUST

24th	Arthur Ewen - 3D slides and B. Thompson - Keying out ferns	
25th	Morwell National Park and a fern search	

### SEPTEMBER

28th	Ken Harris	Tasmanian Flora & Fauna
29th	Crinigan Rd. Reserve	

### OCTOBER

13th	Outing with Bairnsdale F.N.C.	Valencia Creek suggested
26th	Damien Moloney	Coastal Heathlands
27th	Coastal excursion	

### NOVEMBER

10th	Bus trip	Botanic Gardens
23rd.	Reg Johnson	Flowers, Fur & Feathers
24th	Cowarr / Toongabbie.	

### December

8th	Christmas Party	
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## 1991

### JANUARY

18th	Members' night and a Campout at Licola	25th-28th Jan.
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We meet at the Moe Education Centre in Haigh St. on 4th Friday of each month.





THE SEARCH FOR THE GIANT GIPPSLAND EARTHWORM

YARRAGON SOUTH, SATURDAY 29th JULY

Very little is known about the Giant Gippsland Earthworm *Megascolides australis* (McCoy) and its whereabouts, so a study is being conducted with a grant from the World Wildlife Fund, by the Invertebrate Survey Section at the Museum of Victoria headed by Dr. Alan Yen and Beverley van Praagh, a Ph. D student from Latrobe University.

The Giant Earthworm is known to exist in the Warragul, Korrrumburra, Loch area, however, authenticated findings are mainly around Loch and Korrrumburra with few around Warragul, even though it was first discovered in the Brandy Creek/Warragul area by railway workers in the 1870s. Its exact distribution is only sketchy as many reports of its whereabouts are from locals who may or may not be correct. Beverley is engaged in mapping its exact whereabouts and this weekend was looking both at Yarragon South and Brandy Creek, following strong local claims of its existence. Two specimens were found at Mount Wotho Park in June 1988 by the Survey Section of the Museum.

Our party consisted of Dr. Alan Yen and Peter Lilywhite of the Museum of Victoria, Beverley van Praagh, Friends of the Museum and locals to act as guides. We divided into two groups - one to search in pasture areas where locals had reported evidence of huge worms and the other to look along the creeks in the gullies.

The best place to look is where yabbie holes are visible on the surface as both the giant earthworm and the yabbie inhabit moist, clayey soils where a spring or soak may be underground. These may be found both in gullies and on south slopes and hillsides. Yabbie holes were often thought to belong to the giant earthworm but a yabbie hole usually travels down more or less vertically to a large underground chamber, whereas the worm's hole doesn't open out to the surface, but stops a couple of centimetres below in the root mat, or may come up below a damp log.

Because of this the giant earthworm doesn't leave its cast above the ground like our familiar garden worm, but backfills its burrow with it. The presence of casts in a tunnel distinguishes it from a yabbie's tunnel as does its circular packed appearance which often shows rings imprinted by the worm's body. These tunnels may extend metres below the surface and as the dry season advances and the water level drops the worm is found at greater depths. Hence July is the ideal month for worm hunting.

Most of the worms found in gardens and paddocks are introduced European worms belonging to the family Lumbriciace, probably transferred with soil around plants. They are generally smaller, and the clitellum (the breeding part which is responsible for producing the cocoon) which looks like a broad band is considerably further back from the head than in the native worm. It is possible that the native worm is replaced by the introduced worm when land is cleared, but not necessarily because they are driven out by competition,

THE SEARCH FOR THE GIANT GIPPSLAND EARTHWORM

YARRAGON SOUTH, SATURDAY 29th JULY cont....

but because the land may no longer be a suitable habitat.

The giant earthworm is about 1 metre long and 2 centimetres thick when constricted, and more than doubles its length when extended as it moves through its tunnel. its distinguishing feature is its long black head.

Worms are hermaphrodite, having both male and female parts in the clitellum. When worms mate they lie together with heads facing opposite directions and exchange sperm and both worms produce a cocoon which contains the baby worm. The cocoon of the giant earthworm is very large and oval in shape, about 4-7 centimetres by 2 centimetres. The incubation period is very long as Beverley has kept them in the laboratory for 6 months before they hatched so they may take 8 to 12 months to hatch. The worm is about 18-30 cm. long when it hatches, which makes the baby giant earthworm considerably larger than most mature worms.

When the giant earthworm moves through its burrow it makes a fairly loud noise which is usually described as sounding like water running out the plug hole of a bath. When a likely spot as located the procedure is to stamp on the ground or thump it with the flat of a shovel to disturb it. If it is heard, by digging furiously it may be located before it moves away along its tunnel system. This must be done at speed, but with care to avoid cutting it or damaging its fragile body. If it is found then the body must be held firmly while the whole worm is gently dug or drawn out of its tunnel.

Unfortunately we were unable to observe this procedure as despite much thumping, stamping and digging in many likely areas no giant earthworms were to be found this day. We did find one large native worm which Beverley took as an interesting specimen which was probably not yet described. It was about 30 cm long in its contracted state which made it about the same size as a baby giant earthworm.

However, as one patient and experienced worm hunter consoled us, "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence". Evidently it took two days of digging in a small area at Mount Worth to locate the giant earthworm and this was following very strong leads by local workers in the park. No doubt many holes will be dug at Yarragon South in the future by intrigued locals continuing the search for the elusive giant earthworm.

P.S. 22nd August. Some worms were found at Buln Buln the next day in dirt by the roadside.

The cocoon collected from Mount Worth took 14 months to hatch as it hatched on Monday 21st August.

Wendy Savage.



A DAY AT SHILOH

On Saturday 23rd September, 13 members were at Cowwarr to meet Sue Ryswyk, our host for the day.

We travelled through Heyfield and on to Old Joe's Road at Seaton where the property "Shiloh" and the home of Sue and husband Martin is situated.

After the welcome by Sue and Martin, we decided to have a short walk before lunch. We set off into the bush and were met by hoards of mosquitoes; undeterred, we admired the wattles which were splashes of yellow in the sunlight. Golden wattle, Acacia pycnantha, Spreading wattle, A. Gen-istifolia and Gold-dust wattle, A. acinacea and later, Juniper wattle A. ulcifolia was seen.

We walked over a carpet of Peach Heath, Lissanthe strigosa, which had a variation of pink to white colour. Caladenia was flower of the day, being everywhere. Pink Fingers C. carnea with its many colour variations and the tiny variety C. pygmaea was of interest as was Blue Caladenia C. caerulea.

There were many Waxlips, Glossodia major, with their many shades of blue as we walked along the tracks.

Marianthus procumbens, which we know as a spreading plant was an erect form here, the little white star flowers were most prolific.

Patches of purple were Twining Fringe-lily, Thysanotus patersonii.

The first orchids seen were Nodding Greenhood, Pterostylis nutans; we came across several patches of these orchids.

Others were Tall Greenhood P. longifolia and later in the day we were delighted to see Haroonhood P. pedunculata in a large clump beneath the trees.

The many Sun Orchid leaves and others told us that more flowers were to come.

Twining Glycine G. clandestina and Love Creeper Comesperma volubile were cascading over the Burgan bushes.

Another delight was Early Nancy Anguillaria dioica; we all recalled the "harbingers of spring" in our youth. There were buds of Curling Everlasting Helichrysum scorpioides.

"Shiloh" is a property of 40 acres of bush, the main trees being Red Ironbark E. sideroxylon, Red Box E. polyanthemos, Yellow Box E. melliodora and White Stringybark E. globoidea.

The trees had been cut for fence posts and other uses in earlier days. There was a large tree, a survivor of the tree felling.

Rock Fern was the only species of fern to be found. At lunchtime we gathered near the house and sat in a circle to enjoy the sunshine and review our discoveries and positively identify others.

Sue and Martin joined us for lunch, also their two dogs who had accompanied us throughout the day.

After lunch and walking in another area we found Matted Bush-pea Pultenaea pedunculata, and Heathy Parrot-pea Dillwynia glaberrima, their bright orange-yellow flowers bright in the sunshine. Other yellow flowers were Scaly Buttons Leptophynchus squamatus and a tiny Slender Cicendia C. filiformis.

Calytrix tetragona was not in flower. The Chocolate Lily

A DAY AT SHILOH cont.....

Dichopogon strictus, Daphne Heath Brachyloma daphnoides and Grey Gineea Flower Hibbertia obtusifolia were more delights for us.

The Thyme Spurge Phyllanthus hirtillus, both male and female flowers, were of much interest as we looked at them with a magnifying glass.

Later in the afternoon, we saw some Cherry Ballart Exocarpus cupressiformis, which usually grow in association with eucalypts.

Two blue daisies caused interest, one being Brachycome scarpiformis and a smaller Variable Daisy D. ciliaris. More flowers were Common Novea N. heterophylla, Snow Daisy Bush Olearia lirata, Small Rice Flower Pinelca humilis and many Tall Sundews Drosera auriculata awaiting their insect catch.

Some of us enjoyed the thrill of being the first to find a flower or being able to identify a plant.

As we drove to the property, there were vivid blue patches as we passed by. Later identified as Hardenbergia violacea, Nodding Blue Lily Stypantra glauca and Forest Nightshade Solanum priniphyllum.

Time was moving fast and reluctantly we had to abandon our wanderings and return for afternoon tea provided by Sue and Martin in their home; an unexpected pleasure for us all.

President Jane thanked our hosts for a wonderful day spent walking near "Shiloh" (which means "peace"); a fitting name for this delightful place.

We all returned home satisfied with having a most enjoyable day.

Lorna Long

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VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND MEETING/CAMPOUT

MARCH 10, 11, 12 1990

This will be held again at Ocean Grove at the Uniting Church Conference Centre, hosted by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

Accommodation is bunk-style and three meals a day are included in the cost.

Activities will include boat trips on Port Phillip Bay, beach walks, bird watching and the stimulating company of many members from other Clubs.

Those members who attended last year thoroughly enjoyed the three days of well organised activities and excellent guest speakers.

Highly recommended!!

Further details and booking information can be obtained from LVFNC Secretary.

(Accommodation last year was booked out so book early)



ERRATUM

RE: LITTLE TERNS BY JOAN VINCENT - LATROBE VALLEY  
NATURALIST (p.3) ISSUE No 310

The correct scientific name for the Little Tern is Sterna albifrons sinensis.

Little Tern are not known to breed on off-shore islands as such but do breed on small island sandspit or shoreline WITHIN estuarine eco-systems such as Corner Inlet, the Gippsland Lakes and Mallacoota Inlet represents.

I know of no official, recognised world-wide organisation called "Tern Sitters".

Only one eight-strand electric fence has ever been erected on Rigby Island, near Lakes Entrance.

So far I have only recorded one hybrid pair of small tern. For the 1988-89 breeding season at Rigby Island there were recorded 20 pair of breeding Fairy Tern - Sterna nereis. This is a separate species from Sterna albifrons sinensis.

Joan Vincent

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB CAMPOUT  
AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND  
JANUARY 1990

This will be held again at the Traralgon High School Camp at Licola.

Accommodation is bunk-style with pillows and sheets/sleeping bags to be taken by the participants.

There is an excellent kitchen, but all food must be taken by those attending the camp.

Activities include visiting the High Plains, bird watching, botanising and sharing the knowledge of those Club members who have visited this area for many years.

Cost is \$7 per night. Children \$3.50.

Please contact the Secretary if you have not already registered your interest in attending.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 22/11/89

Six members present. Five apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. Wirilda Management Plan Meeting. O.Thompson gave report. Good attendance and renewed interest in Plan. Finance stumbling block. New part-time Ranger.
2. CFL Forest Management Area Advisory Committee. Minister given name of J. Blucher. Frank Noble informed. Some delay in Traralgon CFL knowing of our applicant.
3. Publicity Officer. John Newett has moved from the area. Peg Wall will act until AGM.

Finance:

Cheque account:	\$294.22
Investment acc:	\$2005.03
Conservation acc:	\$700.00

\$550 to be transferred from Con.acc to Cheque account.

Periodicals received:

Environment Victoria	Oct/Nov 89
Geelong Naturalist	Spring 89
Loch Sport and District FNC	Sept 89
NE Naturalist	Sept 89
NT FNC	Nov/Dec 89
SGAP	Oct/Nov 89
Vic. Naturalist	Sept/Oct 89
Weta	July 89

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Members of Club compiled a census of plants in West Gully, Yallourn North. This list contains 40 more species than the census carried out in February.

Contacted David Watkins, Erica, re signposting of the Boola Boola Reserve. Sign making machine out of order and we will have to wait until new signs can be made.

Contacted DCFL re wood illegally taken from reserves and parks.

Drafts prepared for submissions on:-

Yarra Forests Management Plans  
Land Conservation Council Rivers and Streams Special Investigation.

Submission to be prepared on Latrobe Valley Water Industry Future Management Options.

The Thompsons represented the Club at the SEC Rehabilitation Group Inspection Tour of Latrobe River Wetlands on Overburden and Dam Extension and assisted with plant and shrub identification.

Full copies of the minutes of the business meeting are available for any members who are interested.

Next meeting: Wednesday January 17, 1990 at 7.30pm at the YHCA, Morwell.



## LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>HON. SECRETARY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
<u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.</u>	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659	7.30pm on <del>4th</del> Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St <u>Moe.</u>
	<u>ASSISTANT SEC.</u> <del>Mrs. W. Savage</del> 056-342246	
<u>SALE F.N.C.</u>	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, <u>Raymond St Sale.</u>
<u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u>	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
<u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u>	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cuming St <del>Paynesville 3880</del>	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. <u>Hall, Bairnsdale.</u>

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